

Iraq to boycott Islamic conference

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it would boycott a conference of Islamic states next week because its Gulf war foe Saudi Arabia was taking part and mounting an American plot against Baghdad. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a government spokesman as saying Saudi Arabia "and its mercenary allies" were preparing an American conspiracy at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit. "The spokesman said that Iraq's decision was a protest against this conduct," INA said. The spokesman gave no details. It was not known if Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was on the agenda for the summit, due to open in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on Dec. 9. "It is regrettable that since the beginning of the Zionist Western-American aggression (the Gulf war) on Iraq it has been confirmed by evidence that Saudi Arabia and its mercenaries have made the organisation a tool of the Zionist Western imperialist plan against Iraq," the spokesman said. He accused Saudi Arabia of orchestrating a resolution at an OIC foreign ministers session in Istanbul last August backing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. Iraq is mounting a campaign of its own: "any international meeting it attends to get the sanctions lifted."

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Jordan welcomes multilateral talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Maher Al Sharif said Wednesday Jordan welcomes participation in the Middle East multilateral talks, which will be held in Moscow Jan. 29-30. In a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Sridunov, Mr. Sharif lauded the Soviet efforts and contribution to the peace process, co-sponsored by the Soviet Union and the U.S. Jordan, the minister said, pins great hopes on Soviet efforts in this regard. "Moscow is a suitable place for the gathering of regional and international powers which will try jointly to rid the region of the atmosphere of confrontation and war and replace it with an atmosphere of peace and cooperation," he added. The Soviet ambassador, who visited Mr. Sharif at the Foreign Ministry to inform him of the agreement reached between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to hold the multilateral talks in Moscow Jan. 29-30, said the formal invitations to the talks will be extended to the concerned parties later. Mr. Sridunov stressed the importance of Jordan's participation in the multilateral talks because of the appreciation and the admiration Jordan and its leadership enjoy as a result for their continued endeavours to bring about peace to the region.

King congratulates Syrian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to congratulate him for his reselection for a fourth seven-year term. King Hussein wished Mr. Assad good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

Libyan minister in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Libyan cabinet minister put Tripoli's case to Kuwait on Wednesday about U.S. and Western accusations that two Libyan intelligence agents blew up a Pan Am airliner in 1988. Kuwait's national news agency KUNA said Abdul Majid Al Mabrouk Al Qasou, Libya's minister of agrarian reform and land reclamation, met Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and handed him a letter from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. The United States has officially accused Libya of masterminding the bombing (see page 2).

Arabs threaten to sue Italian filmmaker

ROME (R) — The Arab League, stung by an interview in which Franco Zeffirelli called Arabs "a very serious threat for all the civilised world," threatened Wednesday to sue the Italian film director. Mr. Zeffirelli gave the controversial interview after customs at Saudi Arabia's Riyadh airport seized a promotional film he made on Florence. The seizure was made on moral grounds. The Florence-born director told the Turin newspaper La Stampa: "Arabs are a very serious threat for all the civilised world. Their cultural and military policy is barbarian, primitive, violent. . . sometimes I think we did the wrong thing in intervening in the Gulf war. We should have let them kill each other," the 68-year-old Zeffirelli said in the interview published Monday. Riyadh customs had objected to the film's shots of two masterpieces which represent naked bodies — the statue of David by 16th century sculptor Michelangelo and the birth of Venus painting by 15th century artist Botticelli.

Iraq defuses bombs dropped by allies

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it had safely detonated 389 cluster bombs dropped by the U.S.-led allies during the Gulf war on houses, schools and farms in southern parts of the country. "He aim was to kill civilians," Al Thawra newspaper quoted chief of the Civil Defence Department Brigadier Saad Hamza Imam as saying. He said a seven-year-old boy was killed Tuesday when one bomb exploded in a farm in the southern Missan province. Most of the cluster bombs — anti-personnel devices that spray pellets on impact — were found in farms.

France expels Lebanese agent

PARIS (R) — France said Wednesday it was expelling a Lebanese security agent who obtained illegally a list of 85 dissidents detained for demonstrating against President Elias Hrawi's recent visit to Paris. Interior Minister Philippe Marichand said in parliament the Lebanese ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday and told the agent, who passed to Beirut the list obtained from a French police sergeant, must leave the country. This morning the case of the Lebanese agent in question was discussed with the Lebanese ambassador who was called once again to the Foreign Ministry. He was told that the agent in question . . . must leave our soil immediately. "I add that the Foreign Ministry has made representations to the Lebanese authorities to ensure that these Lebanese nationals should not be persecuted in their home country, even if some of them . . . were already known to the Lebanese authorities."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Arabs turn up for peace talks; Israel does not

Peace delegates express disappointment, but will give Israel a second chance

Americans criticise Israelis but Arabs think Washington gave concessions

From George Hawatreh
in Washington

answer to a question. "If they (Israel) show up we will be ready to discuss substantive matters." (see full statement in box)

Israeli officials are in town right now but instead of talking to us about peace, they are at pains trying to explain away their failing to do so by talking to the media, Dr. Majali told reporters at the entrance of the State Department.

He was referring to the presence of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli deputy minister for information, who was dispatched to the round of talks at the State Department. The leader of the Jordanian delegation, Abdul Salam Al Majali, accused Israel of trying to derail the entire process. "(Israel's) stalling tactics have lately intensified vis-a-vis the new location and timing of the bilateral talks."

"We are coming again tomorrow to the meeting," he said. "In

tice of oppression (in the occupied territories) and the building of settlements that aim at frustrating the peace process."

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, following up on Dr. Abdul Shafiq's statement, said the Israeli absence, "is an insult to the Arab delegates and the two co-sponsors."

She noted that "the Israelis have not even bothered to send somebody to apologise (for failing to show up)." Dr. Ashrawi, urging the U.S. respond to Israel "in a firm manner," stressed that Israel "must not be allowed to dictate its will on the other parties to the conflict as well as on the two co-sponsors."

"This is a serious occasion that Israel must not be allowed to waste," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Arab delegates noted with interest the U.S. State Department's "disappointment" with the Israeli failure to show up, but

they criticised the American position as not "strong enough" in facing up to Israel.

While Arab delegates in public

comments and American officials in private criticised Israel for not showing up, there was also a feeling among the Arabs that Washington, despite its criticism of Israel, was giving concessions to the Jewish state.

Arab delegates noted that American criticism was evident in State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler's statements, but Washington let Israel off the hook by not allowing cameramen into the designated conference halls to photograph the empty Israeli chairs at the negotiating table.

The also said that the American announcement that Washington would press for the repeal of the Zionism-equals-racism resolution adopted by the

U.N. General Assembly was a reward for Israel instead of applying pressure on the Jewish state.

Ms. Tutwiler said that despite the fact that Israel would be absent from the table, "the facilities for the negotiations will remain open and available to all the parties. We will be open for business every day." But, she said, "it was time to move beyond procedural differences and wrangling and engage directly with one another in direct bilateral negotiations continuing the process launched in Madrid."

The "wrangling" over dates and venue for the talks and Israel's decision not to attend on December 4, is seen as proxy for more substantive disputes whose resolutions will be determined by what role the co-sponsors,

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis say they will be in Washington Monday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, boycotting Washington talks opening Wednesday, said it had decided to send all its delegates to peace negotiations on Dec. 9.

As the Arab side prepared to take up the U.S. invitation and be in place for resumed Middle East talks, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said:

"Today the Israeli delegations will not show up but as far as the 9th is concerned, the Israeli delegations will attend with the assumption the Arab delegations will be there as well."

Spokesman Ehud Gol told Reuters: "We will be there on the 9th."

Israel has for decades asserted it would talk peace with its neighbours at any time and place.

Israeli ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval, and deputy minister Benjamin Netanyahu are serving as an advance team in Washington.

Mr. Netanyahu, media maestro at Madrid, has been charged with a public relations campaign to minimise the damage caused by Israeli absence.

In an editorial entitled "they're waiting for us," Israel's mass-circulation Yedioth Achronot newspaper criticised the government and implied "Mr. Netanyahu was on an impossible mission."

"Even Bibi Netanyahu, the nation's public relations man on duty, will be incapable of repairing the media and political damage our government created with its own hands," it said.

"Who will believe our government is still committed to peace?"

It compared Israel's behaviour

Freed Anderson handed over to U.S.

DAMASCUS (R) — American journalist Terry Anderson, freed on Wednesday by his Lebanese kidnappers, was handed over to U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus, witnesses said.

The handover took place privately.

Mr. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press news agency, was the last American held by pro-Iranian kidnappers and the longest-held Western hostage.

Mr. Anderson looked "perfectly well," a witness said.

He was wearing black trousers and a black pullover and had a moustache.

Snow had blocked Mr. Anderson's drive to freedom Wednesday. The last U.S. hostage released by Lebanon's kidnappers and quickly turned over to their countries' diplomats at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

Confusion surrounded his whereabouts several hours after diplomats in Syria and security sources in Beirut said he had been released from 2,454 days' captivity.

Mr. Anderson, held longer than any other hostage, was freed in Beirut at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). But by late afternoon had still not completed the journey over the mountains to Damascus, normally at three-and-a-half hour trip.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in New York that Mr. Anderson —

travelling in a Syrian-escorted convoy — had been held up by snow.

The route over the Shouf mountains, which rise to nearly 3,000 metres were lashed by early winter storms.

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Released hostages are normally whisked from Beirut to Damascus by Syrian security officials and quickly turned over to their countries' diplomats at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

His release after 2,454 days in captivity leaves two German aid workers, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempner, the last Westerners in the kidnappers' hands.

Although hopes for a final end to the nine-year hostage saga are high, the Germans' prospects of release remain uncertain.

Their captors have not agreed to the exchange negotiated by U.N. mediator Giandomenico Picco. They want Baum to free two Lebanese brothers, one jailed for air piracy and murder and the other for kidnapping.

King commutes 6 death sentences on Mohammad's Army members

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday commuted death sentences on six members of the so-called Mohammad's Army to life imprisonment with hard labour.

The six faced execution for car-bomb attacks after the State Security Court sentenced them Nov. 25.

The Royal Decree did not lift the death penalty on two other members of the group tried in their absence.

The decree said Fuad Danesh, Jawad Faqih, Habes Qaisi, Nabil Abu Hartheh, Mohammad Da-jani and Ziyad Younes sentenced by the State Security Court last month to death for carrying out terrorist activities and plotting to assassinate Jordanian and foreign personalities would instead be imprisoned for life with hard labour.

Eight members of the group were sentenced to death, two of them in absentia. The rest of the

group were condemned by His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Alian)

The six convicted "Mohammad's Army" members whose death sentences were commuted by His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Alian)

Defence lawyers first tried to disqualify the court itself as being incompetent to handle the case

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli settlers demand new colony

Jewish settlers returning from the funeral of Zvi Klein, who died on Monday from his wounds, rampaged through Al Bireh overnight, smashing windows and stoning and injuring an Arab driver.

Israel Radio reported that 20 settlers had chained themselves to the mobile homes and the army was standing by with a crane ready to remove the homes and force people to leave the area. It was not clear why it had not yet taken action.

The defence ministry said in a statement Wednesday that Defense Minister Moshe Arens had agreed settler leaders that civilians would not remain at the site near the army post.

"The permanent presence of civilians in the area will only be permitted after it becomes civilian," the statement said.

But the settlers have refused to go, insisting Mr. Arens had promised two mobile homes with about 10 people could stay.

The United States, sponsoring Israeli-Arab peace talks, regards Jewish settlement of the occupied territories as a major obstacle.

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mid tension Algerians inch second poll bid for democracy

BEIERS (R) — Algerians, a multi-party democracy in North Africa, Thursday, a second election campaign year after bloodshed derailed first.

Voters appear divided and as they prepare yet again an unprecedented experience free elections no Dec. 26 after decades of one-party rule.

Algeria's multi-party general election was postponed from last June after clashes between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces killed 55 people.

Neighboring states are carefully watching the outcome of a political experiment that could bring pluralist democracy, uncertainty or an Islamic fundamentalist state.

Forty-nine parties are taking part but two dominate — the Islamic Salvation Party (FLS), the most powerful opposition group, and the National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled a centralised one party state since 1962 independence from France.

The government, formed in June to prepare the elections, is standing aside, its ministers pledged not to stand.

The poll run-up is marked by memories of tanks and soldiers deployed in cities last June when violence aborted the original polling date.

Fresh incidents have brought warnings from newspapers of new efforts to destabilise the nation of 15 million people.

But the main fear ahead of the ballot box is a massive abstention by voters, either from a boycott call by some Islamic fundamentalists or out of poll exhaustion and confusion.

Commentators and diplomats say this would roll a new government of legitimacy, needed to reassure foreign creditors and end political instability. "Certainly, my government would be worried by big abstention," one western diplomat said.

"I forecast a lot of Algerians abstaining to mark their rejection of confusion in the political world," said Mohammad Yazid, director of the Institute of Higher Strategic Studies.

Ghali aide leaves U.S. as police make sex charge probe

NEW YORK (R) — While Boutros Ghali was being confirmed by the General Assembly as the new U.N. secretary-general Tuesday, scandal erupted over whether one of his aides sexually abused a chambermaid.

Manhattan district attorney's office said that the aide flew home to Egypt in the middle of negotiations with the Egyptian mission over whether police could interview him about the allegations.

Spokesmen for the Egyptian mission could not be reached for comment and it was not clear what, if anything, Dr. Ghali knew about the incident.

A spokesman for District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said police wanted to interview the Ghali aide about a complaint from a maid at the U.N. Plaza hotel who said he grabbed her in his hotel room and began masturbating.

The diplomat — whose name was not released by police — left late Monday night just hours before the United Nations General Assembly voted to confirm Dr. Ghali as the world organization's new secretary-general starting Jan. 1.

Police sources described the man as a top administrative aide to Dr. Ghali who apparently had intended to work for him at the United Nations.

"He was a senior adviser to Dr. Ghali, not a servant, and has

Another Western diplomat also said that apart from FIS demands for an Islamic state, other parties lacked concrete programmes.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has spoken several times of a "problem of legitimacy" to pull Algeria out of a "vicious circle... and resolve the country's problems."

The FIS emerged as the biggest opposition during regional elections last year. It denies any involvement in violence, but has threatened to boycott the poll if the political climate is not "cleansed."

It says if it does abstain it will make all "legal efforts" to sabotage the vote.

Clashes between its militants and security forces derailed the June poll. Its leaders, including the top men Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, are still detained.

The FLN, led by Abdul Mehdi Mehri, seeking a multi-party, modern democracy, has called for a massive turnout leading to a coalition government to tackle economic problems.

Mr. Mehri, in an interview published Wednesday, said the FLN was in better shape than a year ago but added: "I have no point of reference to put forward a forecast" on the result.

"It is an election for or against Islamic fundamentalism," one Western diplomat said, summing up comment among diplomats, despite a range of political groups which include several smaller Islamic parties like Hamas and Nahda.

The government pledges the poll, watched carefully by foreign creditors and neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco, will go ahead. It has launched a media campaign, urging: "I love my country. I am going to vote," and "Rendezvous for democracy."

On Monday parliament passed a new law toughening controls on public demonstrations. "We will not let things deteriorate," Interior Minister Lardi Belkheir says.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — New U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has pledged to work for international peace and security and to foster development and democracy.

In a speech to the General Assembly, which formally appointed him by acclamation Monday, Dr. Ghali, an Egyptian deputy Prime Minister, promised to follow "an active, preventive diplomacy, with a view to monitoring developments of crises, and devising adequate means to defuse them and prevent their escalation."

Dr. Ghali, who was sworn in Tuesday, also stressed the U.N. role in strengthening fundamental freedoms and democratic institutions, "which constitute an essential and indispensable stage in the economic and social development of nations."

Dr. Ghali, the sixth U.N. secretary-general and the first from Africa, succeeds Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, who ends his second five-year term on Dec. 31.

Before being named deputy prime minister of Egypt in May, the 45-year-old Dr. Ghali served for 14 years as minister of state for foreign affairs. He helped negotiate the 1978 Camp David accords which led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Combining two themes on which Third World and industrialized countries often place different emphasis, Dr. Ghali said: "If there is no development without democracy, there can also be no democracy without development."

"Although it is difficult to determine whether to start with development in order to obtain democracy, or to begin democracy in order to achieve development, it is obvious that the guarantees of fundamental freedom and the protection of human rights constitute a prerequisite that the United Nations must promote."

According to the complaint filed with police, the chambermaid was making up a room on Monday morning when the man asked her to bring him something in the bathroom. When she approached, the man allegedly grabbed her and began masturbating.

Newsday said the man gave the woman \$10 and threw her out. She went to hotel security, who called the U.S. State Department.

The sources also denied a New York Newsday report that Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, had phoned Dr. Ghali about the incident.

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According to the complaint filed with police, the chambermaid was making up a room on Monday morning when the man asked her to bring him something in the bathroom. When she approached, the man allegedly grabbed her and began masturbating.

Newsday said the man gave the woman \$10 and threw her out. She

Minister presented with demands to help economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — In his first meeting with representatives of the Jordanian business community, new Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Saqaf Wednesday was presented with a set of demands designed to stimulate commercial activity in the Kingdom.

Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, urged the Ministry of Supply to float the prices of non-basic foodstuffs and allow the prices to be decided through free competition in the Jordanian market. Mr. Asfour also demanded that food aid coming to Jordan be channelled to low-income groups like government employees through the military and civil service consumer corporations.

Furthermore, the consumer corporations should be encouraged to buy their needs of ready-made clothes from local factories and not import them from other countries. These should be sold at reduced prices only to government employees, he said.

Mr. Asfour demanded that upgraded measures and methods be adopted in collecting samples of products for laboratory tests and in the process of selling basic food supplies like sugar and rice to the local merchants to allow them a reasonable profit margin.

For his part, Mr. Saqaf urged the chambers to work out a collective memorandum to be reviewed at a general meeting between representatives of the ministries of supply and of industry and trade on local businessmen and merchants.

He said the memorandum should deal with all matters related to trade and obstacles facing the businesses in their operations.

Mr. Saqaf stressed the government's keenness on safeguarding the interests of the merchants and the consumers and welcomed ideas that would serve that objective.



Her Majesty Queen Noor at a gathering in London to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the American University of Beirut

Queen Noor praises role of American University of Beirut

AMMAN (J.T.) — At a ceremony marking the 125th year of the founding of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Her Majesty Queen Noor praised the school for its contributions in educating future leaders of the Arab World and said the school should continue its important role in Arab academic life.

Speaking Saturday before an audience of 350 AUB Alumni and supporters, the Queen said the university "has provided the best education available for several generations of Arab men and women."

Referring to the recent bombing of College Hall, the Queen said: "The clock tower of College Hall may be temporarily missing from the skyline of Beirut, but the horizons of the Arab World remain illuminated by everything that AUB has offered to the Arab people and to the world in the last 125 years."

The Queen was the guest of honour at the first AUB Alumni European Convention Banquet, which was held in London. The

convention addressed AUB's future and its role in the 21st Century.

"Perhaps more than any other institution in the region, the university has been ... a model of interaction between the Arab and Western worlds," she said. The university has served as a "window through which they have been able to discover the best in each other, to learn from one another and to affirm their mutual aspirations and dreams."

"You recognise that spirit" the Queen added, "because you have carried it within you since your days at AUB."

Other speakers included Chairman of the AUB Alumni Association in the United Kingdom Hisham El Solh, chairman of the board of Trustees of AUB and President Emeritus of Princeton University, Dr. Robert E. Goode and AUB Deputy President, Dr. Ibrahim Salti.

Also attending the banquet were Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, Senator Leila Sharaf and Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Fouad Ayoub.

Queen Noor also spoke of the democratic transformation taking place in the Arab World and described the recent peaceful and

orderly political development in Jordan towards pluralistic democracy.

"The force that drives the new momentum for change in the Arab World is grounded firmly on the burgeoning spirit of democracy, pluralism and nation-building," she said.

"You recognise that spirit" the Queen added, "because you have carried it within you since your days at AUB."

Other speakers included Chairman of the AUB Alumni Association in the United Kingdom Hisham El Solh, chairman of the board of Trustees of AUB and President Emeritus of Princeton University, Dr. Robert E. Goode and AUB Deputy President, Dr. Ibrahim Salti.

Also attending the banquet were Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, Senator Leila Sharaf and Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Fouad Ayoub.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Thailand

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Thailand's national day. King Hussein wished the Thai monarch continued good health and happiness and the Thai people further progress and prosperity.

Bridge to be closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Mohammad Bridge over the River Jordan will be closed for traffic from Sunday until further notice, Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Wednesday. The sources said those willing to travel to the West Bank can use the King Hussein Bridge, which is usually open for passengers from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. According to the sources, the movement of trucks across the two bridges will remain unchanged.

Minister receives ILO official

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti received Wednesday Nicolae Sarraf, the regional advisor of the director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Sarraf reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the ILO in labour-related fields and ways of promoting and bolstering ties. Mr. Sarraf was also received by the secretary general of the Jordanian Labour Unions Federation, Abd Halim Khadda. The meeting, which was attended by a number of labour unions presidents, discussed the labour unions' achievements in Jordan and the Jordanian federation's relations with the ILO. Mr. Khadda and Mr. Sarraf agreed to draw a plan for holding next year's cultural activities, which will include seminars and lectures on labour-related issues.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dia Azawi at Muna Saudi Studio — tel. 82796.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery (opening ceremony at 5:30 p.m.)

BAZAAR

- ★ The American Women of Amman (AWA) Christmas Charity Bazaar at the Marriott Hotel (open Friday from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

One dead, about 100 rescued as torrential rains continue

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One person had died and at least 100 have been rescued by Civil Defense Department (CDD) teams in the last six days as torrential rains continued through Wednesday, CDD officials reported.

Most of the rescue operations were mounted to help people trapped either in their cars or homes by the rains,

which have caused widespread damage throughout the country, officials said.

There have been about 300 incidents reported to authorities in which houses or business were flooded, officials said.

While causing widespread damage, many officials welcomed the rains, saying it would be beneficial to the environment and farmers. At the same time, the rains have repleted the country's water supply, which had been running low as a result of the high demand in the summer.

The King Talal Dam, the largest in the country, is nearly one third full now thanks to the rains of the past six days, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah.

The King Talal Dam, which has a total capacity of 85 million cubic metres, collected 26 million cubic metres by Wednesday morning and was expected to rise above the 30 million cubic metre level by Wednesday evening, up from nine million cubic metres at the beginning of the season, said Dr. Wishah in a statement to the *Jordan Times*.

"We have readings of the total amounts of water in the various dams in the morning of each day and the latest readings are very encouraging, especially as we are still at the outset of the rainy season," Dr. Wishah said.

The director of the Department of Meteorology, Dr. Ali



Residents in Amman try to minimise the damage caused by six days of torrential rains (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Abanda, said in a statement to the *Jordan News Agency*, Petra, that the effect of the current rainstorm will gradually recede Thursday when a rise in temperatures is expected. But, he said, Jordan will be affected on Sunday by another low depression which is expected to bring in more rain.

Dr. Abanda said that the cold fronts accompanying the depression which was centred over the island of Cyprus brought in high winds and heavy rain in most regions of Jordan. He estimated the amount of rain falling in the first four days as accounting for 10 per cent of the total annual rain-fall in Jordan.

Dr. Abanda said that Salt received the largest amount of rain, nearly 234 millimetres in the first five days.

The rainstorms have caused at least one death. They have

also caused damage to roads due to landslides and temporary closure of roads in various regions of the Kingdom.

A Civil Defence Department (CDD) spokesman said that Lina Shaker Amr, a 24-year-old woman, found to have drowned in a torrent at the Yadoodeh District, 10 kilometres south of Amman. The woman had been reported missing 24 hours earlier and the body was discovered five kilometres away from the spot where she was reported to have been seen last.

Several CDD teams were formed to look for the missing woman and for two young boys who were missing but were later found. According to eyewitnesses, the woman was in the company of her fiance, who was pulled out from the stream by people and civil defence men.

Sit-in held in protest of unfair testing requirements for new graduates

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 50 specialists held a two-hour sit-in at the headquarters of the Jordan Medical Board in Amman Wednesday to back a host of demands and present a memorandum outlining the grievances of 1,500 specialists who claimed to be represented.

In their note, the specialists said that the board was mistreating the new graduating specialists and blocking their attempts to be registered as specialists with authority to practice in the country.

"The board sets very difficult examinations for the new specialists with the result that no more than 5 per cent of the candidates pass such examinations," the note said.

It said that most members of

the board and those of scientific committees hold degrees far less in standard than those held by the candidates. But still, the way for new graduates to be fully recognised as specialists in Jordan is blocked, the statement said.

The board law which was issued in 1982 to raise the medical standard in Jordan and to issue diplomas to Jordanians being trained for their specialisation was not meant to evaluate degrees issued by boards abroad, the protest note added.

It accused the board members of abusing the law and the regulations on awarding diplomas or licences to specialists and demanded that such excesses end.

Asked to comment on the situation, Health Minister Aref Bataineh denied that a sit-in was held and said that only a

protest memorandum was submitted to the board chairman. Dr. Bataineh noted, however, that the ministry was taking measures to find a permanent solution to this chronic problem. But, he said, the ministry refuses to succumb to pressure. Jordan Medical Association President Ishaq Maraqa admitted that there was a sit-in, but said that he would have supported the presentation of a memorandum without the sit-in.

The sit-in was held without any consultation with the association, which is supposed to know about doctors' actions in advance so it can later back their demands, he said.

The board's secretary general, Hami Owais, said that the note will be conveyed to the health minister in his capacity as chairman of the Jordan Medical Board.

Tayseer Abdul Jaber
ESCWA briefs member states on activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Advisory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) convened Wednesday at the commission's headquarters attended by ambassadors and representatives of member states.

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber under-secretary-general and ESCWA executive secretary opened the meeting with a presentation of the commission's work and different activities in the economic, social and technical fields.

During the meeting, the delegates exchanged views with the executive secretary, who answered the different questions and inquiries posed about the commission's functions.

The objective of such meeting is to conduct consultations on issues that would assist the commission in providing wider and better services in the fields of its competence.

The member states of ESCWA are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

International Volunteer Day commemorated in Jordan, world

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, along with other nations of the world, Thursday observes International Volunteer Day (IVD) during which special tribute is paid to volunteer workers around the world.

In Jordan, volunteer work is embodied in the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which serves as an umbrella for 600 societies grouping 75,000 volunteers.

For its part, the Ministry of Social Development cooperates with 132 foreign societies around the world through bilateral agreements to promote volunteer services in the Kingdom. The ministry also provides annual assistance totalling more than JD 294,000 in cash and JD 114,000 worth of in-kind assistance to voluntary associations in the Kingdom.

On the eve of the IVD U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued a message to various countries paying tribute to volunteers from all nationalities.



Luxury line of sunglasses to be introduced

AMMAN — Petra Est. For Optical Products, the sole agents for Carrera International Products in Jordan, held a party last Thursday at the Jerusalem International Hotel on the occasion of launching of Carrera, Hugo Boss, Porsche design frames and sunglasses in the Jordanian markets.

George Abdu, Petra manager, pointed out the qualities of Carrera sunglasses as being lightweight, but solid, fashionable and

sporty. Mr. Abdu stressed Petra's commitment to excellent service to its clients.

The event was attended by Optics, Novelty and Department Stores representatives and other retail customers.

The Austrian Commercial attaché in Jordan attended the convention and complemented Petra and Carrera on these new products. Geretschlag showed a video film and slides and presented the new 1992 collections of Carrera, Porsche Design and Hugo Boss frames and sunglasses will be shortly available at leading opticians and department stores.

The National Music Conservatory! Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents Sulafa and Otail Haddad and Leith Ismail in a piano and oboe recital Monday, December 9, 1991 at 8:00 p.m. The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Hall In the programme pieces by: Chopin, Haydn, Prokofiev and others. Tickets, for JD 4 each, are available at: The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 661322 Bakhita, Tel. 661322 The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620



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Sabotaging the peace process

WHAT DOES Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir want? Does he, as many Arabs maintain, want to sabotage the peace process? Or is he, in his quest to twist U.S. President George Bush's arm, trying to win back, by force, the U.S. administration?

He seems to be doing both. He seems to want to determine the shape of peace in the region on his own perception while at the same time keeping the "special relationship" between Israel and the U.S. The man and his clique in Tel Aviv seem to be out of touch with the changing times. The Arabs, Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, all of whom Shamir and the U.S. administration had for long termed anti-peace, showed up en masse Wednesday at the scheduled location and date "to talk peace," as the head of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, has said. It is true that peace cannot be achieved without the Israelis, if that is the point they are making. But it is even more important, especially for the Israelis, to understand that their own peace, cannot be achieved without the Arabs. American money and arms will not for long be used at liberty to ensure Israeli security. These facts are by now well-known to every sane human being, Arab, Israeli or American.

Israel cannot continue to set the rules for the game of peace. It took U.S. Secretary of State James Baker months, many trips to the region and long hours of talks to convince the Arabs to bitterly accept Israeli terms of reference for the peace talks. The U.S. and most certainly the Arabs will not allow Israel to derail the talks from their intended target, a just and comprehensive peace, nor will they allow Israel to conduct them on its own terms. Shamir's continued attempts to limit the role of the U.S. are futile. Israel knows, the U.S. knows it and the Arab know it: Peace in the Middle East at this juncture of history cannot and will not be achieved without the active involvement of the U.S. The balance of power in the Middle East, in favour of Israel, will not allow a just peace unless the U.S., the honest broker, decided it is just. The hatred and the decades-old animosity will not disappear with the signing of peace accords; that requires a long-time involvement of the U.S. in all aspects of the peace process.

Many Arabs would be very pleased to see U.S.-Israeli relations damaged. They consider those special relations as responsible for Israeli intransigence. We see strains in these relations, and we suspect that Shamir and his Likud bloc are pushing into that direction in their effort to blackmail the administration and delay any substantive talks until it brings the administration to heel and wins the loan guarantees. It also wants to push the talks well into 1992 when the American people becomes busy in presidential elections in the hope the U.S. enthusiasm for the talks would wane. It is unfortunate that this last chance would be wasted by the intransigence of the Israeli leadership and its narrow-mindedness.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said Wednesday that the Israelis who are refusing to attend talks in Washington are the same people who have been visiting the American capital for years begging money and rallying support for their crimes and occupation of Arab land. By declaring that no power on earth can force Israel to go to Washington on Dec. 4, Yitzhak Shamir is trying to show the world that Israel can do without the United States in pursuing occupation and aggression, the paper said. It said that the United States had crushed Iraq and is depriving its people of the means of existence for the sake of Israel which is now trying to rebel and to hold on to the occupied land with guarantees from the U.S. and Europe and with continued insults to the Arab Nation. The absence of Israel from the peace party in Washington could be offset by the presence of the American administration because the Americans dealt with the Gulf crisis in Iraq's absence and forced Baghdad to pull out its troops from Kuwait, the paper pointed out: The U.S. can force Israel to pull out from the Arab lands without starving the Israelis or imposing sanctions on them but through imposing its will by withholding loans and cutting off aid, said the paper. Israel's absence from the peace negotiations does not absolve the U.S. administration from its responsibility to bring about a settlement, the paper added. The paper said that President George Bush can make history and save his country further embarrassment by being tough and by ordering Israel to succumb to the requirements of peace and comply with the international legitimacy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed the question of releasing American and European hostages and noted that only through a deal over the fate of human beings can the U.S. and Europe be forced to unfreeze assets in their banks. Tareq Masarweh cited the unfreezing by the U.S. of \$287 million to Iran following the release of American hostages in Beirut and the unfreezing of \$120 million by Britain of Iraqi assets following the release of a British businessman accused of bribing officials in Baghdad.

The screws tighten in Palestine

By Chris Mannings

MUSTAFA Al Jamal returned to his Gaza home at eight o'clock in the evening after a long day's work on a Tel Aviv construction site. He has to get up at four the following morning in order to negotiate passage out of Gaza through checks and searches at the Erez checkpoint. He must have his ID card, his magnetic card and now since the Gulf war a special permit to allow him to work in Israel. Talk of peace has not made a great impression on him. "My grandfather gave this problem to my father and my father gave it to me. At the beginning of the intifada I thought there might be a solution but now I think maybe I will just have to pass on the problem to my son."

Palestinian disillusionment

Mustafa's disillusionment is shared by many. Three years of sacrifice in the intifada did not bring tangible gains so the philosophy of liberation from outside was reviewed, this time in the shape of Saddam Hussein. Fatigue had set in long before the Gulf war but now little interest is expressed even in the news. In Gaza stories abound of peoples' struggle to return. There are the tens of thousands stranded on the Iraq-Kuwait border without travel documents. Those who make it to Egypt are forced to wait in Cairo until there are sufficient numbers to fill a bus. They are not provided with medical or other welfare facil-

ties. Put all this in the context of massive Soviet Jewish immigration, accelerated land confiscation and frenzied construction of new settlements and the mood of desperation is easy to apprehend.

Attitudes to the intifada are complex and confusing. In private conversation it is not uncommon to hear it pronounced as at an end. Heretical opinions about accepting any kind of peace settlement are the result of desperation not political conviction. "We talk about Jerusalem but if they offered us Ramallah tomorrow we should accept it," is the result of frustration with concrete circumstances and the political leadership inside and outside, not a signal of capitulation. The intifada is still very much alive, whatever isolated individuals may contend, but there is a widespread feeling that it has somehow slipped beyond the people's control.

Attitudes in the occupied territories to American endeavours to bring together the enemy parties are often described as sceptical. This misses the point. Such have been the reverses of recent months, so omnipotent is the U.S. traditional benefactor of Israel and powerless to influence events is so widely felt that the significance of the peace conference is remote. In short no one has asked people what they want and how they feel and thus it is none of their business. It will go ahead regardless of what they feel about it.

Settlements transform the skyline

The 45-minute drive from the King Hussein Bridge over the River Jordan to Jerusalem has changed dramatically within the past two years. Israeli settlement of East Jerusalem has transformed the skyline and created tight rows of fortress housing. Arab Jerusalem is fading in a fury of Israeli construction. The Israelis have not been lax and the lorry loads of sewage pipes at the Erez checkpoint into Gaza bear witness to frenetic building throughout the occupied territories. Land is being pulled from under the feet of Palestinian farmers.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent and the head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the peace conference, said he was surprised at American ignorance of land confiscation. Secretary of State James Baker appeared taken aback when Palestinian representatives related the extent of Israeli land confiscation and settlement. Dr. Abdul Shafi expressed Palestinian fears in the following exchange with Mr. Baker.

"I asked the secretary of state if he thought continued settlement of the occupied territories was compatible with peace. 'No', he replied. I then asked if America was prepared to put pressure on Israel to freeze its settlement policy. Again he replied 'no'."

The gathering furore over loan guarantees and President George Bush's threat to use his veto in Congress to delay granting them indicates a belated recognition of the centrality of Israeli settlement policy to the peace process. Dr. Abdul Shafi put this issue right at the heart of the process. "Without a freeze on settlement, questions such as East Jerusalem and who represents the Palestinians are irrelevant."

Rejecting Israel's agenda

The opinion throughout the occupied territories is that talk of establishing the final status of the territories after a period of years, while through an accelerated programme of land confiscation and settlement the Israelis are practically engaged in doing just that, is arrant nonsense and further evidence of the willingness of the international community to bend over backwards to accommodate Israeli policy. In the light of unrestrained repression vigorous settlement, Palestinians are not inclined to take very seriously any talk of peace conferences. They have become exasperated with such international acquiescence to Israel's agenda setting.

Despite the return of those Palestinians displaced by the Gulf war to the occupied territories, there is a general fear among Palestinians in Syria, Jordan and the occupied territories about international plans for them. In

Succeed or fail, EC will make history at Maastricht

By Andres Wolberg-Stok
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Arguably the most ambitious project in Europe's evolution reaches a crossroads next week in the old Dutch city of Maastricht.

Even if it succeeds, the European Community summit on political and monetary union will not produce an instant united states of Europe. Nor will failure spell the EC's immediate collapse.

But the long-term stakes are high.

If the 12 heads of state and government cannot bridge huge differences, the EC will suffer a severe blow. Britain, perhaps the most sovereignty-conscious of the 12 states, might condemn itself to future isolation.

But if the summit does strike a deal, it could set the 34-year-old community on course to become one day the European union, with a single currency run by an EC central bank, one voice in foreign affairs and one army.

Unlike the sprawling empires Napoleon and Hitler set out to build, this union would rest on the willingness of democratic nations to give up sovereignty in a broad range of fields for the sake of common strength.

It would embrace at least nine different languages and many cultures. It would bring together not pioneers in an unknown continent, but peoples long prone to wage murderous wars against each other.

If the summit next Monday and Tuesday can move towards the EC vision, or at least clearly chart the way forward, politicians predict EC unity and wealth will beckon a dozen or more other European states to join in.

It would then wield enormous, economic and political power, vying with the United States and Japan for supremacy.

If the summit fails, many predict a gradual dilution of the EC, with the lure of a barrier free single market after 1992 no longer enough to ensure unity.

If we don't go forward, we will slide back," says Belgium's ambassador to the EC, Philippe de Schoutheete.

In this worst-case scenario, the community would slowly wilt. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who champions a united states of Europe, said last month that failure at Maastricht would set the EC back by a generation.

In the short term, East European reformers such as Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — not to mention the Soviet republics — could see their hopes for EC membership this century quashed.

Even much wealthier and more politically mature applicants such as Austria and Sweden would find the EC's doors closed until internal remonstrations in Brussels subsided.

A community riven by rancour would find it hard to act as an anchor for the continent or dampen ethnic strife to the east.

It would also be less likely to work hard at good trade relations with the United States or Japan, and protectionist instincts could resurface — perhaps leading to a trade war.

And what of Germany, by far the EC's biggest and wealthiest state? Today it seems eager to bury forever the memories of two world wars fomented by nationalism and blend into a bigger bloc where nationality matters less.

Bonn itself concedes a risk that

it might start throwing its weight around, or turn its attention to the east where it would find plenty of new areas of political and business opportunity.

With so much at stake, why is there such disagreement among EC states after full year of intensive treaty negotiations launched by the same leaders at a summit in Rome last December?

How can 12 states whose economies are already being woven together remain so deeply split over the future course?

The EC states have almost

completed the mammoth task they set themselves in 1987 of writing hundreds of new laws to scrap all internal barriers to the movement of people, goods, services and capital by the end of 1992.

Their currencies are already locked into narrow bands and cannot fluctuate too much against each other without central banks stepping in to restore order.

For so-called "federalists" like Mr. Helmut Kohl or Jacques Delors, president of the executive European Commission, the logical step forward is to plan to scrap national currencies in favour of the European Currency Unit (ECU) — a single currency valid throughout the bloc, predicted to bring vast savings to business.

And if an independent central bank is to manage the ECU, thus depriving the governments of some of their most fundamental policy-making tools, the sensible next step is to merge national sovereignties in other fields, the federalists say.

This is where Britain, and particularly its Conservative government, disagrees.

With occasional backing from Denmark and Portugal, London argues that the best way forward is for the 12 government to cooperate ever more closely, not for the community to be fed more and more power until it becomes an overbearing supra-national monster dictating to its helpless member states.

This fundamental difference of

opinion has coloured the long-standing arguments on almost every subject discussed in the inter-governmental conferences on political union and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Britain is now certain to win an exceptional right to stay out of EMU even if it is still reluctant to join when EC leaders take the final decision in 1997.

It is seen by many as having methodically whittled down the aspirations of its partners, clipping and trimming every proposal to the point where the commission and the European Parliament can expect few new powers in the short term.

London has also succeeded in keeping plans for a more formal common foreign and security policy largely inter-governmental and in extracting pledges from France and other supporters of an EC defence identity that any future European army will not undermine NATO.

But Britain does not appear to discount a last-minute counter-attack by federalists at Maastricht.

The compromise might lie in carefully worded pledges in the new treaty, committing EC states to review their links in a few years' time and setting specific targets for that exercise.

"We want a treaty that makes very clear that economic and currency union and political union is irreversible — underline this word again, it is very important," says Mr. Helmut Kohl.

the U.N. secretary-general's representative, Benon Sevan, is providing the political framework for a transition to a broad-based transitional government in Afghanistan. "It is very important to support this U.N. effort in all of its aspects," Mr. Djerejian stressed, adding, "we think there is room for progress toward a political solution in Afghanistan after these years of crisis and bloodshed."

In other efforts toward arms reduction in the region, Mr. Djerejian said the United States is now also engaged in consultations with the Chinese government on issues of arms transfers.

Turning to the policies of Iraq, he noted that it is very important to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity for stability in the region as a whole."

Mr. Djerejian said that President Bush's proposal for an arms control regime in the Middle East seeks to prevent the emergence of such regimes in the future, through controls on conventional weapons to the region as well as weapons of mass destruction, including surface-to-surface missiles.

"What is important is that the parties (of the region) begin to focus on these issues," Mr. Djerejian said. One vehicle, he said, "is very well suited for the multilateral talks that we're considering in terms of the peace process in which issues of security and arms control and human resources will be addressed."

Djerejian: U.S. has no blueprint for Mideast talks

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — The United States looks forward to direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours but "has no blueprint" for those talks, a senior U.S. administration official said a few days before the talks were scheduled to begin here.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Edward Djerejian said in a United States Information Agency (USIA) interview, Nov. 29, it is extraordinarily important that the parties reengage on both the substantive and procedural issues that have been discussed in Madrid.

In the wide-ranging interview Mr. Djerejian also discussed other important regional issues, including arms control, Iraq, Lebanon independence, the bombing of Pan Am 103, nuclear arms in South Asia and the movement toward peace in Afghanistan.

"In the first instance, it is very important for the parties to engage directly and try to resolve these issues themselves," Mr. Djerejian said, noting "the Israelis have agreed to the Washington venue for the next bilateral talks."

"Something that has been sought for 43 years was accomplished in Madrid," Mr. Djerejian pointed out. "The Arab-Israeli peace process has been established at a higher level, from which the parties are now continuing. Therefore, the bilateral talks in Washington this week are the next step in continuing the

momentum in what has been achieved at Madrid."

Mr. Djerejian said that while the role of the United States involves "no specific American plan, we and the Soviets, as a co-sponsor, are available to the negotiating parties whenever they so wish — whenever the parties themselves agree, we are available to play a role."

"We would certainly prefer that the parties themselves resolve these procedural issues between themselves," he noted. "If they cannot, then we are prepared, with the Soviets, to provide proposals of our own to break deadlocks or stalemates." On the question of venue, he said, "we waited for three weeks... They were unable to agree, and we made a proposal for the talks to resume in Washington."

"We very much hope that the parties will concentrate more and more on substance and pull away from some of the procedural problems that have been addressed in recent weeks. It is very important to start focusing the bilateral talks on issues of substance which are really at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Within the general framework of the peace process, he said, "the U.S. would like to see discussions between the Israelis and the Palestinians on interim self-government arrangements concluded by the first year of the negotiations, and final status negotiations occur beginning the third year."

"I want to underline, there is

no American blueprint... We don't have a time frame for this. We realise we're in it for the long haul — even our proposal is a multi-year one — but where we can make progress quickly, we're going to try to go for it," Mr. Djerejian added.

Turning to questions on U.S. policy concerning the status of the Golan Heights, a major bilateral issue, Mr. Djerejian said the United States "does not recognise the unilateral extension of Israeli administrative rules and law to the Golan," he said resolution of the Golan Heights question is a major subject of bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria "that must be resolved at the negotiating table."

Asked if Lebanon will have an independent voice in the bilaterals in light of a recent spate of bilateral agreements with Syria, Mr. Djerejian pointed out that Lebanon "announced its participation in the next round of bilateral talks in Washington days before Syria did."

He said U.S. policy, which supports implementation of the Taif Accords, is based in restoring Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity. With the implementation of the Taif agreement, to which Syria is a signatory, "Lebanon is on that path of reassessing its own independence," Mr. Djerejian, who had served as U.S. ambassador to Syria, stressed.

Mr. Djerejian said the Taif agreement is the mechanism established by states of the region to support Lebanon's reemergence as an independent country, free of all foreign forces, and with all militia dismantled, with a Lebanese state that can reestablish control over its own territory. "We have consistently told the Syrians that we expect Taif to be followed in letter and spirit, and that resolve is very important," he said.

Questioned on U.S. policy toward Syria in light of allegations that it was involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103, Mr. Djerejian said the United States participated in "a very objective and intense investigation, both criminal, forensic and intelligence" to determine the perpetrators of the atrocity.

"The evidence led clearly to Libya," he said. "It led to the two individuals who have been indicted and — equally troubling — to involvement by Libyan officials in this act," Mr.

Weekender

Jackie in Lips

Dec. 5, 1991 A

Published Every Thursday

Husseini's paintings — inspirations from the homeland

By Ica Wahabeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first thing you set eyes on when you step in is a monumental-size canvas the impact of which is so strong on the senses that you find yourself unable to avoid looking at it.

Eyes darting around to take in the explosion of colour, I was unprepared for the petite woman who came to meet me with an extended hand.

Smiling and composed, she congenitally volunteered information about her work and life.

Born in Jerusalem, Jumana Al Husseini's life seems to be that of a rich socialite. But the expressive, at times sad, eyes tell of another story. Forced to leave her birthplace by brutal occupation, and then living successively in different adopted countries, she carried in her heart the homeland "as I remembered it. As I wanted it to be."

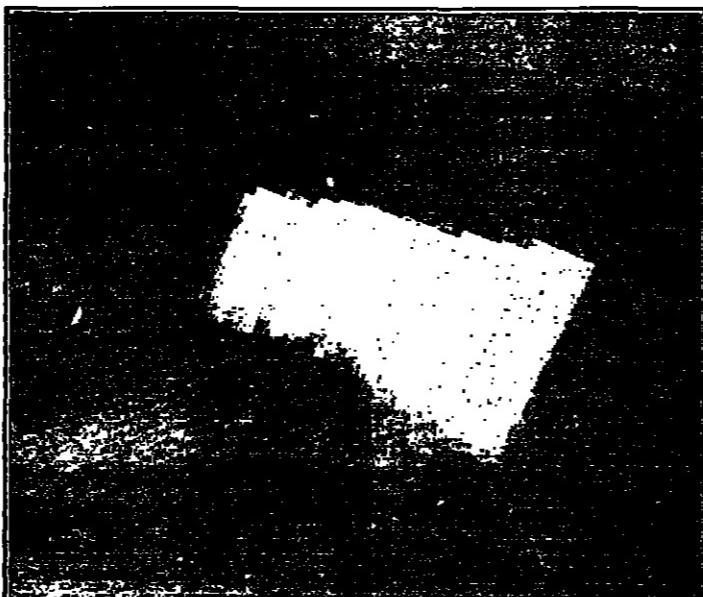
The early style, that of the 60s, was characterized by representations of squares. "My first solo exhibition, in Lou-

don, had paintings of squares in which I would draw things reminding Palestine. My homeland is always in my heart. The things I would draw within the squares were of past, happy memories. Never the present. It is not pleasant."

Gradually, Ms. Husseini's style changed from squares with fragmented bits inside to whole images. A hard worker, putting in from 12 to 15 hours of work daily, she gets transposed into a world of her own. "I would draw Jerusalem. My Jerusalem, the way I remembered it, that was mine. And I would imagine, while working, that I was living there."

At that time, of the early 70s, the artist had started representing Arab/Palestinian traditions: Weddings, circumcision, bathing of the bride.

The colours are vivid, the images are stylised. One particular painting, The Galilee Wedding, is representative of the period. On the background, there is the church where Jesus Christ performed his first miracle. To



One of the abstract paintings — mixed media on canvas — by the artist currently on display at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

the left, in the foreground, two stylised figures are those of Jesus and Virgin Mary. The centrepiece is taken by the married couple and people attending the ceremony. The images are suggestive, symbolic; the colours convey

a happy feeling with purple and red abundant.

Ms. Husseini says she always painted on canvas. But in 1975, with the war in Lebanon, where she was living at the time, she "discovered" the paper. "It was easier to

carry and cheaper to buy." The colour technique, "my own," consists of the use of China ink and watercolours. "On paper, I would use watercolours. Then I would cover it with an isolating layer and use oil over." The watercolour creates nuances, while the oil would give relief to the whole.

As late as 1988, Ms. Jumana started embroidery (Palestinian cross stitch) and abstract painting. An exhibition in the U.S. and Canada had on show torn and stabbed at canvases. "I would paint something and then I would systematically destroy it. I guess I would express my feelings of frustration at the state of affairs in my home country. Then, I started hearing about the intifada, about the children of the stones. I felt I was born again."

These new developments influenced Ms. Husseini's style. "I started drawing (things that reminded me) the beginning of life: The seed, the egg."

They are small paintings, as contrasted with the more recent ones, in abstract form.

"I never thought I'd use this style, I think it must have suited my desire to express my rebirth."

The 10 or 11 frames invariably have a dark (black) background and bright, abstract splashes of colour.

With the progressing of events at home, Ms. Husseini's nationalistic feelings were evolving too. "I started feeling the area where I came from. I was getting a superior perception the culture I belonged to. I felt reborn."

Although the colour was predominantly black, "those were my happiest moments. I was finding myself again."

The technique she uses could be described as archaeology in reverse. "I would have liked to become an archaeologist, instead of doing political studies. But we, Palestinians, are inevitably naturally drawn to politics, so I followed the trend."

The latest paintings are drawn layer upon layer of oil, crayon, watercolour. The works are all mixed media with abstracts. The artist works simultaneously on 24



Jumana Al Husseini

to 26 canvases for, sometimes, as long as a whole year.

"The newest paintings look simpler (than the older ones). But I draw more than 20 layers on each," she says, adding that it takes a lot of time, but that she discovers "things" every day by using this technique.

The thin layers are at times transparent, creating some sort of perspective, although

a very abstract one. The colours are exquisitely combined, mostly bright.

The exhibition opens Saturday Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and continues until the end of the month. "It is my first exhibition in Jordan. I came because I like to share my work with my people. I just hope they will appreciate it," said the small woman with a pleasant smile.

Princess Di, by just being there, fights for AIDS victims

By Anne Senior

REUTER LONDON — One British superstar was struck down by AIDS this week but another is continuing her controversial fight to enlighten people about the disease.

Princess Diana, 30 international covergirl and future queen of England, has become one of the most influential voices calling for care and compassion for AIDS victims. While some other royals insist on wearing

gloves for all engagements, Princess Diana hugs AIDS babies.

She began her work to promote AIDS care four years ago and professionals in the field regard her as an invaluable asset.

But despite the publicity she brings to the cause, AIDS workers say Britain still has a long way to go in educating people about the disease and dispelling prejudices against its victims, particularly homosexuals.

The death of Freddie Mer-

cury, lead singer of the pop group Queen and one of the great showmen of rock music, again highlighted the waste of creative talent which AIDS so often leaves in its wake.

Many British commentators chose to focus on his outrageous lifestyle and male lovers, with one newspaper calling him an evil influence.

The reaction dismayed some AIDS groups such as the Terrence Higgins Trust which say heterosexuals are equally at risk.

Courts say Princess Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, made up her own mind to join the fight against AIDS. She has visited AIDS wards in Britain, the United States, Canada and Brazil, once giving a girl dying of AIDS a ride in her Rolls-Royce.

Overcoming her innate shyness the princess has given speeches explaining how AIDS is transmitted and asserting that it is wrong to ostracise its sufferers.

She recently became pat-

AIDS unit.

When she was first photographed shaking hands with a 32-year-old AIDS sufferer in 1987, the story was splashed all over the media as a challenge to those who shun victims completely for fear of picking up the disease.

By making a point of comforting AIDS victims, she sends out a strong message of tolerance and sympathy for those whose lives have been devastated by the epidemic.

"A handshake from her is worth a thousand words from us," said one doctor after Princess Diana opened a new

cause under pressure from Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth, for her to acquire a more mature image. Secretly, these paper said, she was horrified by the idea of touching an AIDS patient.

But a spokesman for the National AIDS Trust said:

"Her courageous public stand has helped Britain to realise that AIDS is not confined to certain groups. It can happen to anyone and everyone needs to protect themselves against it."

"She has shown that people with AIDS are not a race apart, and her example has led others to treat them with more respect and more compassion.

Nevertheless, the princess is said to receive hate mail about her work.

And her own life has not escaped the shadow of the disease. One of her close friends, Adrian Ward-Jackson, fellow dance fan and former director of Britain's Royal Ballet, died of AIDS in July. He was 41.

Jackie Joyner Kersee — looking to the 1992 games

By Phillipa Neave

NEW YORK — At 29, Jackie Joyner Kersee, by some accounts, may have reached the peak of her career. Considered the world's greatest female athlete, she upheld her reputation by winning the gold medal for long jump in the recent World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

Despite an injury that caused her to withdraw from competing in her specialty, the gruelling seven-event heptathlon, Joyner Kersee says her career is nowhere near over. She has got her eye firmly fixed on the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and further still, on the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games. "I would love to end my career in America," she confided in a recent interview. "It would be ideal for me because my Olympian career started with a silver medal in L.A. in 1984 and I would love to end it with a gold in my own country."

By then, she will be 34. "I would have accomplished everything an athlete would want out of the track and field. I am trying to be the first woman ever to win more than one gold in the heptathlon. I can see doing it in 1992 and it would be ideal to do again in 1996."

While she is receiving therapy for the sprained ankle she suffered in Tokyo, Joyner Kersee is back in training for Barcelona. Her routine starts at 6:30 or 7 a.m. with a leisurely 30- or 40-minute jog around the Los Angeles suburb where she and her husband, coach Bob Kersee, recently bought a home. She then sets off for UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) for a one- or two-hour weight-lift work-out, followed by a massage before an afternoon of drills, perfecting techniques of run-

ning, jumping or throwing. When the summer season approaches, which is when most track and field events are held, Joyner Kersee trains up to 12 hours a day. Diet is an important part of her programme: "I have to make sure I eat well — a lot of carbohydrates, like pancakes in the morning and pasta. My mother balanced meals out pretty well and as a young girl, I already knew I wanted to be successful in athletics so I ate well all along, because I knew that once I got older, it would be a shock to the system trying to change all of a sudden." But she has her weaknesses, she admits. "I do have a problem with junk food. I love potato chips. I would eat one large bag or even two a day. Now I've got it down to one small bag a day. Sometimes I stop and get a hamburger — double cheese burger, no ketchup — it's all right to do it sometimes, only in moderation!"

Joyner Kersee, known simply as Jackie or JK to her friends, had waited a long time for that moment. "I got started at the age of 9," she explains in her soft, sing-song voice, "When I joined the Junior Olympic programme." The local coach, Nino Fennoy, encouraged her to quit as captain of the cheerleading squad to dedicate herself to athletics. "He was very influential in the community and tried to inspire young kids to do something with their lives," she says. Sensing he had the makings of a truly great athlete in his hands, Fennoy guided Joyner Kersee through a series of Junior Olympic competitions, as well as basketball and volleyball matches. He encouraged her to practice as many disciplines as possible. "I wanted to be a 400m runner but he suggested it was best to be versatile and while you are young, to try to develop your skills so you won't be left out if some opportunity presents itself to you."

In 1988, 26 years later, Jacqueline stood on the podium of the Seoul Olympic Games with the world at her feet. Tens of thousands of spectators in the stadium and millions of viewers around the world acclaimed the gold medalist and world record holder in the heptathlon as the planet's greatest female athlete. Her voice fills with emotion when she recalls the moment: Twice she went up on the podium, the second time to receive a gold medal for long jump. This was the



Jackie Joyner Kersee

getting faster. It was a matter of staying with it and learning that in order to be a winner, you have to accept losing first."

Her family was not keen to see her go from the tight-knit community to which she belonged. Los Angeles seemed a world away. "A lot of people said L.A. was too far away and that I'd get lost in the big city, in the fast lane. But I told people that, first I wanted a good education, and second, the only fast lane I'm going to be in is on the track — I'm not a party person. I had my priorities set, I knew what I wanted to do."

Although success, prizes, sponsorships and advertising contracts have brought her wealth and her lifestyle has changed, Joyner Kersee has not forgotten her roots. "I feel I never really left the ghetto," she says. "I found out that once you become successful, there are a lot of pressures put on you, especially peer pressure, when you are young. I have not let success change me. I ask my friends not to treat me differently, because I am the same Jackie."

One of the first things she did after she won the gold medals was to return to East St. Louis to see her family. "As a young girl, I didn't have that many options. One

was to graduate from high school and get a job, the other was to try and get a scholarship and the third was to get married." At the time girls were not encouraged to be too sporty. "There weren't many scholarships for girls and many people believed it wasn't feminine to do sports. I did not think that was true, you can be a lady on the field as well as off the field."

Certainly, Joyner Kersee is known for the meticulous care she takes of her appearance, sporting an elegant style that fits well with her lean muscular body — 150 lb. A style seen as almost conservative compared to her flamboyant sister-in-law, Florence Griffith Joyner, best known as Flo-Jo, a remarkable athlete in her own right who won a silver medal for the 200m in the 1984 Los Angeles Games and delighted crowds with fluorescent outfits and long painted nails. Sports seem to run in the Joyner family. Flo-Jo is married to Joyner Kersee's older brother, Al Joyner, gold medalist for the triple jump in the 1984 summer Olympics. "Our parents did not push us into athletics, but once we had decided that it was what we wanted to do, they supported us 100 per cent," recalls Joyner Kersee.

Today, as in the early days, her motivation comes from within: "I wanted to be the best, and accepting second or third wasn't good enough," she says. Another motivating force was her coach, and now husband, Bob Kersee, who trained her at UCLA when she took a year off from her studies in history to work on getting into the 1984 Olympic team. She won a silver medal in the heptathlon. "I had been picked to win the gold but came up short by five points," she recalls. "I had a

hamstring problem that affected me so bad on the inside that I was in such turmoil, I could not perform. After that, I told myself it would never happen again and that was my driving force."

She needed plenty of it at the 1988 Seoul games. The heptathlon involves seven events — 100m hurdle, high jump, shot put, 200m and 800m races, long jump and javelin throw — and is one of the most demanding athletic performances. But physical endurance is not enough, she says. "I believe athletics is 85 to 90 per cent mental. You can take an athlete with as much talent as me, but if I'm tougher mentally, I'm going to come out on top. You have to be mentally strong enough to go through the pressure."

Her secret is something that lies within each of us but must be practiced, as much as running or jumping, she emphasises: "You have to concentrate on positiveness, feed yourself positive energy. If you tell yourself you can't do something, nine times out of 10 you won't be able to do it ... I do a lot of visualisation, at home, on my own. I visualise myself being successful, going through different events; I make that a part of my daily routine."

In the meantime, she and her husband have been talking about a baby. The two have decided 1994 would be a good year — it would give Joyner Kersee time to recover and get back in shape for the 1996 Olympics. After that, she wants to try a new tack: "I would like to write a fitness book for kids, I do a lot of writing on my own. I would also like to write about my personal experience, growing up in the ghetto, going to the big city and becoming successful" — World News Link.

Children's Birthdays

By Maha Addasi

There is nothing that beats baby sitting for one child more than baby sitting for many children. And how better to do that than at a birthday party for a five-year-old. Where all the kids this five-year-old ever came across, and whom he never allowed as much as to touch his toys, will present themselves at his birthday party and share his happiness on this glorious occasion.

The disaster takes place even before the party. With twelve other children to invite, the mother has this "ingenious" idea to include the birthday boy in the invitation process. This little five-year-old ends up having grudges that far outnumber those of a fifty-year-old, and the memory of an elephant. He rules out six out of the twelve potential invitees off-hand because of heart-rending reasons like being tricked away from a swing by one of those kids when he was three, or being called a name by another when he was four.

The mother holding the party should, under normal circumstances, be relieved that now she is going to chaperone only seven children at once. But based on the equation: Child + normal = Syntax error. Those present at this particular event will suffer traumatic experiences that they will carry throughout their entire lives, or until their sixth birthday.

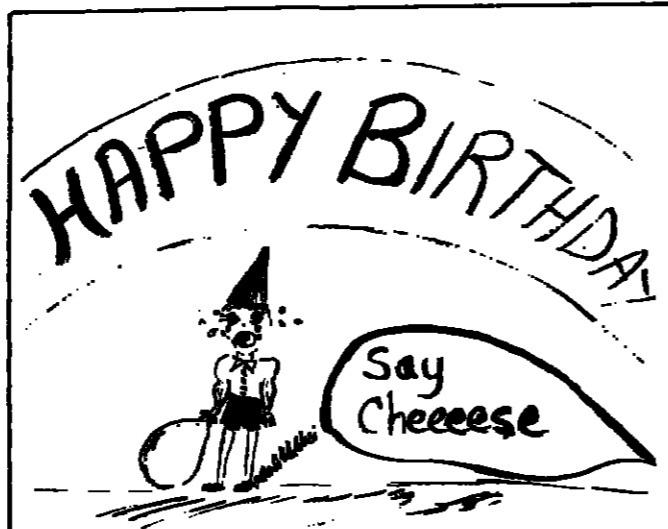
Here is a typical scene:

The mother prepares a special birthday cake; one that is a rectangular section that looks like a beach, with a sea made blue icing and a beach with beige creme. Jello, a must for children, is also prepared. Birthday games are organised with prizes set out, and decorations including balloons are stuck on all available walls.

After a great deal of anticipation, the six "little devils" show up at the door, all ready to "tackle" the birthday. After calming them down the chaperone suggests one of the games like passing the parcel. This is a parcel made up of layer upon layer of newspapers between which are placed a few gift items. The parcel is passed along to music and when the music stops the person who has the parcel in their hands takes one layer of newspaper off and takes the gift there. This should happen until all the gifts are gone. The first such round goes well. The second round initiates tension. By the time the third round comes along the birthday kid is crying. Now, there are two reasons for this. The first is that the birthday child has not yet gotten a turn to unwrap part of the parcel and the second is that the persons who did get the chance are suddenly people the birthday kid no longer likes.

Meanwhile pictures are being taken to document the event and the person who is supposed to be the happiest is the one who is the most miserable.

The next event, which is the musical chairs ends up just



the same as the first game with more kids crying along with the birthday child making more of a birthday atmosphere. So to take the children's minds off such tragedies, the food is set out. All the kids want some cake. They want the sea part and not the beach. The cream is so convincing it actually looks like sand and all seven children refuse to get anywhere near it, so there is less cake to go around. And, of course, there is a new way to eat jello now — using fingers. These are well-disciplined children who never ever dreamed of eating jello with their hands at home. They suddenly develop this appetite for risk and want to see what would happen if they did. A lot happens but the mother will mop it up.

Gift-unwrapping time arrives just as the door-bell rings. A great-aunt has brought some candied apples for the birthday child, as a gift. But the sharp-eyed kids see these "red" apples and there is no convincing them that they are for the birthday child. So the kids get to eat from them and the birthday child starts to cry and the camera records that on film.

The rest of the gifts since unwrapped no longer look as thrilling as when they were wrapped and the birthday child loses interest in everything. It looks like the party did not meet up with this five-year-old's expectations. And looking through the photographs the parents realise that they have inflicted torture on their child by holding this party.

Not that these parents learn their lesson, but the following year they host an event for these same seven children. Only this time it is a fancy-dress party and everyone, "by coincidence" is dressed like a devil except the birthday child. Think of the "fun" this birthday will bring!

Anti-AIDS drive slows spread of disease in Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — An obsessive campaign against AIDS by Bulgaria's ousted Communist regime has slowed the spread of the disease with far greater success than in most Western countries, doctors said.

Only nine out of nine million Bulgarians are known to have died from AIDS. A further three are suffering from the full disease and 98 have the HIV virus.

"We still have not encountered a single prostitute with AIDS," said Central AIDS Laboratory chief Rada Argirova.

Hardline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov, who was ousted from power two years ago, carried out a ruthless testing drive for the killer disease. Anyone who refused compulsory screening could be fined or forced by police to take the test.

All Bulgarians aged 16-65 and foreigners resident in the country for more than 30 days were summoned to take a test at public clinics. Couples wishing to get married and people returning from abroad had to take an extra test. Pregnant women were tested twice and foreigners with the virus were deported.

The costly programme, which screened about one third of the population, was halted after Mr. Zhivkov's removal from power.

"In one year of screening of about 400,000 people we found only four cases," Ms. Argirova told Reuters.

Ms. Argirova said Bulgaria was still in the first stages of AIDS infection and health authorities hoped with the help of the World Health



A visually striking graphics deliver AIDS prevention message in Polish, Bulgarian, Czech and Russian.

Organisation (WHO) to stop it spreading further.

Nearly half of Bulgaria's HIV carriers are married to other sufferers and exposed themselves voluntarily to the virus.

These cases are mainly wives of 40 Bulgarian sailors who were the first to contract the AIDS virus in Bulgaria," Ms. Argirova said. "These women refuse to take preventive measures in their sexual

contacts with their already ill husbands."

More than 70 per cent of the AIDS patients in Bulgaria are heterosexual. Only eight patients are homosexual.

Ms. Argirova said 11 Bulgarians caught the virus from infected blood transfusions but there had been no such infection since compulsory screening of blood samples was introduced in 1987.

In 1985 she was put under investigation for treason because she imported to Bulgaria AIDS virus samples for scientific analysis without observing customs formalities.

"I was virtually accused of organising a bacteriological war against Bulgaria," she said.

She added that a number of Bulgarian AIDS patients were used secretly as "guinea pigs" for previously untested drugs in 1987 and 1988. One patient died.

"It is impossible to say how many people were involved in this criminal experiment," she said.

"These patients were deprived of the only drug which would have been useful to them, AZT, which was also available at that time in Bulgaria. This is a crime."

B.C.



Green grows the grass where elephants fly

By E. Yaghi

Somewhere in a deep hidden valley guarded by black mountains, the sun seldom shines, people rarely smile and street curbs are as high as an elephant's eye and their conquest, a gymnastic feat. Within this obscure area little known to the outside world, there dwells a tribe who, through the year, look like their eyes have died and they are open-eyed. These tribal people have been inflicted with a cataract-like disease which predominates the land. This disease usually strikes and nearly blinds the majority of the people who have become susceptible to this virus caused invasion. Their eyes have become veiled making their vision blurred.

The strange characteristic about this disease is that it concentrates its attack on a nucleus of crème-de-la-crèmes whose heads resemble the shape of a dome. While blindness in itself once had formerly been considered a lack of sight, it had now become the way to be or "moda." Less fortunate creatures who in other countries considered gifted with sight were frequently shunned. While this contagious virus veiled the eyes, at the same time it afflicted the ears, thus causing a certain degree of hearing loss in its victims.

Somewhat among the befuddled tribesmen, a man with sight (otherwise known as an idealist in the outside world) formulated a new ideology whose concepts were of foreign origin. Although his philosophy was a crude political one based on tribal autonomy, his doctrine spread like wildfire among the confused natives of the "land where elephants fly" and it became a password at tribal gatherings around campfires and meetings of dome-heads who professed to hold the secret key of knowledge locked within their muddled minds.

Surprisingly, the youngsters in the tribe were yet immune to the disease. And, in spite of the fact that their minds were keen, eager and curious, many great hurdles and obstacles were placed in their paths by the dome-heads in order to stifle their quest for knowledge. Thus, frustration grew but few could hear the protests of the sighted because a thick layer of wool had grown in the ears of the dead eyes.

Some brave men not yet stricken with the veiled virus spoke through megaphones to the diseased, but the blind and deaf only saw what they chose and generally cared to only hear themselves speak so they dismissed the wisdom seekers with wave of their hands stating, "Autonomy is a long and painful process and we are new to this concept, therefore, we must crawl at a snail's pace, one millimetre at a time."

Existing norms of tribal elders came and went according

to the whims of the tribal dome-heads and progress within the dark valley moved from bad to worse. All steps taken in a positive direction were steered by an ancient medieval code of 1 step forward and 2 steps back — nowhere or back at the beginning. Every wrong decision and disaster was blamed on conditions of weather or nefarious forces which were rumoured to lurk just beyond the hoovering mountains of the barren valley. Once in a while on a clear day, elephants flew. Although no one really saw them flying, the dome-heads exclaimed: "Did you see that elephant take off?" or, "My, what a fine landing that elephant made!"

Those who could genuinely see, scratched their heads in disbelief and whispered: "But everyone knows elephants don't fly! Besides, if the dome-heads have veiled eyes, how do they see them? Next, they'll tell us that there is green growing grass too!"

And sure enough, that's exactly what happened. Choking over clouds of red dust, the dome-heads boasted: "My what lovely green grass we have growing in our valley!"

One day, a small child passing by with his father, heard such a statement and protested: "Where's the grass? We live in a desert. Everyone knows that. There's no such thing as flying elephants. In fact, we don't even have elephants that walk!"

But before the wool-eared dome-head correctly heard the unclad truth of the child, his father clapped his hand over the boy's mouth so no more words could escape.

"What's that? What did the child say?" questioned the dome-head who normally could hardly hear a thing.

"Nothing, O feudal superior, sir. He was just admiring the green grass and elephants flying overhead," said the father who was himself newly infected with the veiled virus and tufts of wool sprouted from his ears.

"Ah, I see. Well you seem to be an intelligent man who shows great promise!" the notable dome-head said with an obvious satisfied look as he patted the emerging protégé on his shoulder. Then he stated: "Say, fine son you have there too! This lad is our tomorrow. In the future his kind will become our tribal elders. You're doing a stupendous job raising him!"

And so he was. In all probability, one day soon the boy would outgrow his innocence and sight. His head would spurt in the shape of a dome and tufts of wool would sprout from his ears unless of course some brave scientist still plagued with sight could find a cure for the disease which had swept over the barren land of green growing grass and whimsical flying elephants!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 5

8:30 The Simpsons

Mr. Simpson admits that he is a failure because he is never satisfied with his job.

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Parnell

Starring: Clark Gable and Myrna Loy

A 19th century Irish politician comes to grief through his love for a married woman.

Friday, Dec. 6

8:30 Coach

The coach discovers that his contract stipulates that he should act as an academic advisor.

She performs this duty with Leonard, the student who is a social outcast.

9:10 Shakespeare's Macbeth

10:00 News in English

10:20 W.I.O.U.

Pair O'Guys

An inside story about the relation between Channel 12 staff, the news director and the anchorwoman and the young reporter preparing for her wedding.

Saturday, Dec. 7

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Born In East L.A.

Starring: Daniel Stern

A Mexican-American, born in Los Angeles goes to the Mexican border to meet



The Golden Girls on JTV Channel 2 Sunday at 8:30

8:30 Hey Dad

Martin rebukes his sons for failing to help in the household chores although the work is distributed among the children.

torn between her love for her husband and the temptation of her new friend.

Monday, Dec. 9

8:30 Kate And Allie

Jenny thinks that the band leader Howard, has fallen in love with her as she has done with him.

9:10 Cosmos

A documentary about the French Egyptologist, Champollion, who in 1928 managed to unravel the key to the Hieroglyphic language of ancient Egypt. With this find the French scholar uncovered the whereabouts of ancient Egyptian cities.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Law And Order

Everybody's Favorite Bagman

Investigation of the Murder of a city councilman leads to uncovering corruption in the city government.

جذب لـ ١٦

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Anyone who, since the beginning of this year, has listened at least a couple of times to the news, been to a concert, read no more than one or two magazines, listened for a few minutes to the radio or watched television, even half asleep knows by now that 1991 has been declared Mozart's year worldwide. Those with just a little more information know the reason why: 1991 is the bicentennial of the great composer's death. The international media have perfectly carried and amplified the event. Two hundred years ago exactly, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart passed away Dec. 5, 1791 at the early age of 36.

Beyond Western culture,



Rula Cameran Nabeel

beyond even classical music, Mozart is undoubtedly the most widely known and popular composer who ever lived on planet Earth to date. What could be added here in Jordan to all what has been said or written this year on the genius of Mozart? His life and his work have been scrutinized enough by specialists, analysts and musicologists. So instead of redundant history telling and analysis, the Jordan Times talked to Jordanian musicians and music lovers and asked them what they thought about the composer.

Kifah Fakhouri, director of the National Music Conservatory, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, admits that Mozart is certainly one of his favorite musicians. According to him, Mozart's music directly talks to the heart, which is what makes it so easy to like. His favorite piece by the composer is the famous "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" (A Little Night Music).

Mr. Fakhouri says that through its deceptive simplicity, the "Petite Musique de Nuit" is also entitled in French, is a masterpiece which perfectly illustrates the possibilities of the strings. If he has to go on a remote and deserted island, this is the one Mozart piece he would like to take with him.

For Mamdouh Bisharat, a true music lover, Mozart was

the one and only. He admires the composer's universal aspect and the incredible variety in music forms that he offered to the world. Mr. Bisharat said: "Mozart wrote for virtually all instruments, all forms and always with the same spirit and beauty. Mozart music expresses all moods, it never bores you. Compared to Mozart, Bach has no variety in his music. Mozart is a confirmation of what a musicologist said about music being a 'holy art.'" Mr. Bisharat's favorite piece is the Divertimento No. 11. He has several books on Mozart he finds extremely useful to better understand his music.

Khaled Dajani, a pianist who has the talent to be a jazz musician as well as a classical performer, said if

one had to select the one genius among all composers, it would definitely be Mozart. For him, "the Requiem is the greatest vocal work ever written." The spontaneity and ease with which Mozart is known to have written music, at the incredibly early age of 5, has certainly a lot to do with the appeal it has to different kinds of listeners." On his desert island Mr. Dajani would take the Requiem, Don Giovanni opera and the piano Concerto in D Minor.

The Conductor of the famous Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) choir and a genuine connoisseur in music, Karim Bawab, reaffirms: "Mozart is beyond any doubt the greatest composer I know." He quotes music producer Erik Smith, from the compact disc

collection that Philips has released this year and which covers all Mozart's work: "Mozart is loved by children and philosophers, by politicians and generals, by adventurers and even by musicians after a hard rehearsal day ... It is important to reject the character that the movie Amadeus tried to impose of a miserable and vulgar, even idiotic Mozart. He was in fact one of the most prolific and intelligent men who ever lived."

Mr. Bawab is amazed at the huge volume and high quality of music that the composer produced in his relatively short lifetime. "Just writing the score of all Mozart's work would take so long ... They didn't have computers to help them in the eighteenth century you know?"

Asked how could one explain the magnitude of Mozart's genius, Mr. Bawab said that the great musician was certainly different from other men, he was "born with it" and his father Leopold Mozart who was Amadeus' teacher, certainly contributed in a large part to what his son became.

A pianist who was enchanted at playing Mozart's sonata in A Major at the age of 9, Nancy Zananiri, acknowledges the genius in him, but doesn't think he must be re-

garded as the greatest. "His music is so simple and at the same time so great." "People like to remember that Mozart started writing good music when he was only a child, it makes him even more popular in their eyes." Mrs. Zananiri has a weakness for the Magic Flute and the piano sonatas, more particularly the third variation of the Sonata in A Major KV 331.

Asked about Mozart technical writing and the harmonic textures in his music, Mrs. Zananiri said "His compositions are extremely harmonious, but technique is not important to the listener, what matters in the end is what the ear accepts or rejects."

The genius from Salzburg is certainly the most played musician known. From con-



Karim Bawab

certs all over the world to recordings, one can also mention exotic arrangements of Mozart music by the Lebanese Rahbani Brothers who have taken the main theme from the 1st movement of the Symphony No. 40 to make a song for Fairuz, to the "Alla Turca" programmed as a telephone waiting tune.

However different people's opinion can be on such a subject, almost everybody agrees that Mozart music is beautiful, colourful, easy to listen to and understand without being simplistic. It is accessible to all and it has reached, touched and moved listeners from all countries, cultures and ages.

If this is not genius, then what is?



Khaled Dajani

Cairo Film Institute — only the best need apply

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Its prestige radiates from Morocco to Saudi Arabia, yet to many aspiring film-makers in the Middle East the Cairo Film Institute appears like an impenetrable fortress. While Egypt is being challenged as the flagship of Middle Eastern cinema and television production, the institute is still considered the cradle of much of the region's talent. It has bred generations of famous film-makers and its teachers include some of today's greatest masters of the 7th art.

Gaining a place to study at the institute has never been easy, but recently admission requirements have become even tougher. In the past the

institute required a good score on the secondary education diploma and put candidates through a grueling series of interviews with the top names in the profession: Directors screen writers, directors of photography. "Two years ago decided to make admission even more difficult," explains Dr. Shawqui Ali Mohammad, the dean of the institute. "We did this for two reasons, first of all because we felt the preliminary interviews were not sufficient to allow us to evaluate the real personality of the prospective student. Secondly, the audio-visual has become such a key media that we cannot afford to go wrong: We cannot put future production in the hands of

people who are not perfectly qualified ... in terms of artistic capabilities, and perhaps more importantly, on the moral and intellectual level."

There are other considerations too, adds Mohammad Abdul Aziz, a movie director who teaches at the institute:

"One day, one of these students will become my assistant or my colleague: I do not want to surround myself with people who are not completely capable of doing their job."

While thousands of youths apply, the number of those who actually enroll every year can be counted in the dozens. "The institute only takes eight students per section (there are eight sections)," says the dean. "We have introduced a new procedure which includes a two-week workshop. Students who have passed a preliminary written test are carefully examined by a board of teachers, as well as by psychologists. Prospective students are also required to produce a few videos to show what they can do before they have even started classes."

In a nearby room, aspiring students are clustered around two or three television cameras — most of them have never seen a camera before. Supervising them are Dr. Nagwa Mahrous, director Tewfik Saleh and movie critic Rafiq Sabban. A young woman, Reem Abdul Anwar, exudes enthusiasm: "It's my turn soon!" she explains. "I'm going to shoot a short clip: First we will see a pair of feet in old tennis shoes

standing by a lamp-post. Then a pair of gold sandals walks up to the feet in the tennis shoes. We see a small envelope passing from one person's hand into the other person's ... What I am trying to do is to speak about drugs and drug addicts." She started the selection process with the idea of becoming a screen-writing student, but her first contact with the camera has changed her outlook; she now wants to learn how to direct, if she is accepted.

Meanwhile, in another part of the room, prospective students have set up a cafe setting and are working together to shoot a scene. This is their first taste of the real teamwork that is involved in movie-making. "Students in seven of the eight sections at the institute are called upon to work together from day one," explains Dr. Shawqui. "All the section — directing, script-writing, photography, editing, production, sound, set-making — work together. The only independent section is cartoon animation. Starting in the first year, students work together in the practical classes and present a 'project' at the end of their four years. This year, for the first time all eight projects produced were bought by Egyptian television. The pieces were written, directed, executed and produced by our fourth-year students. The productions were good enough to become the object of tough price negotiations between us and the acclaimed film directors. In fact, quite a number of chil-

dren of famous movie personalities are enrolled at the institute, such as the sons of directors Ali Abdul Khaleq and Mohammad Radhi, and the son of Mamdouh Al Leici, director general of Egyptian television production.

The list of teachers is also studded with celebrities, including directors Youssef Chahine, Salab Abou Seif and Tewfik Saleh. Many of them have presided over the important changes that have taken place at the institute over the years since it was founded in the early 1960s by a pioneer of the Egyptian cinema, the legendary Mohammad Karim.

Explains Dr. Nagwa Mahrous who was one of the institute's first graduates: "In the early days in the 1960s, the teachers were the veterans who had created the Egyptian cinema. The practical teaching was excellent but on the theoretical side and as far as the personal development of each student went, there were serious deficiencies. There was also a shortage of equipment, laboratories and funds. These days, and for the past five years, the institute has taken some great strides forward ... we have received some new supplies, film and various pieces of equipment. New sets, one for movies and the other for TV shoots will be inaugurated soon. We acquired some new video cameras so this year, for the first time, we have been able to introduce special TV pro-



Having successfully passed the first screening tests to enroll at Cairo's cinema school, Reem Abdul Anwar wants to do a film spot denouncing the drug trade.

duction classes."

While a majority of the students are Egyptian, the institute accepts foreigners — currently a total of about 10 who hail from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Denmark. Egyptian students pay only a token registration fee, but study costs for foreigners are high: \$6,000 for the first year, and a further \$3,000 for each successive year.

No doubt some of the budding film-makers and hopeful candidates will one day see their names in lights and on the big screen like so many of their predecessors. Surely, some of them will remain loyal to the institute that taught them their trade and they too will return to teach the next generation — World News Link.

Cambodian film has become a national obsession

By Jane MacArtney

Reuter
PHNOM PENH — Cambodians had a choice of more than 100 new films last year — every one of them an emotion-charged, slush-filled romance with a happy ending.

Film has been the most popular form of entertainment in Cambodia since Prince Norodom Sihanouk launched the domestic film industry, producing, directing and starring in movies in the 1950s after he became king.

Cambodian television celebrated the ex-monarch's return from 13 years in exile this month by showing some of his early creations — simple plots in which the prince-hero comes to the rescue of the princess-heroine, played by his real-life wife, Princess

Monique.

Modern Cambodian filmmakers are heirs to the Sihanouk tradition, churning out epic love stories distinguished chiefly by their saccharine repetitiveness.

Cambodians can't get enough of them.

Crowds pile into cinemas for the first of the day's four showings at 8.00 a.m.

The production industry can hardly keep pace. To satisfy the insatiable and audience demand, movie producers now make videos rather than films.

"Film is more difficult and needs more money," said director Lim Mareth, 38, who had finished eight productions by June this year and has four currently in production.

"Everyone makes videos

rather than films because they are cheaper and because of the government restrictions," he said. "You can lose a lot more money if the government cuts bits out of films than out of videos."

In the garden of a large private house Lim Mareth has hired in the Phnom Penh suburbs, he guides his actors into position for the camera before an audience of ragged neighbourhood children and stray cows grazing on the edge of the lawn.

"We add the sound later," he said over a cacophony of car horns and giggling children.

It takes him about six weeks to complete one video-film at a cost of five million riel (\$5,000). He usually makes a profit of 1.5 million riel (\$1,500) — and has

earned twice that — in a country where most people live at subsistence level.

"We only make love stories," said a Vietnam-trained director. "And there are no sad endings. The audience only wants happy endings."

The plot is usually a variation on the theme of beautiful, loyal girl falls in love with spoilt misguided boy who realises error of his ways after much tribulation for the long-suffering heroine. They fall into each other's arms to soaring finale music.

Even such seemingly vacuous storylines must be submitted to the Socialist government's censors in the Ministry of Information.

The film's hero is usually a student or the son of a "bourgeois," explained Lim Mareth. Never a policeman

— not popular with audiences — or the son of a Communist Party official — not acceptable among the ruling party cadre.

A theme currently popular is the protagonist from a wealthy — but amoral — family learning the traditional values of the poor — but typically Cambodian — hero.

"The government doesn't want this," said Lim Mareth. "But we still use this kind of plot because the masses like it."

The government has strong views on what it likes and dislikes in the movies.

Kissing and nudity are definitely out. So is crime — violence, rape, murder and robbery are all taboo.

Foreign words — many French words have been adopted into the Khmer lan-

guage — are banned.

"The government thinks these look bad for socialism," said the director. "Such things are not supposed to happen in Cambodia."

"As a director I want more diversity," he said. "I want to make detective movies and films with fighting and shooting, otherwise movies become too repetitive."

"It's difficult to follow the regulation," Lim Mareth said. "If we do then we lose money because this is not what people want to see. If we don't then the government could ban the movie."

Most directors reach a compromise, straying from the rules by about 30 per cent, he said.

The signing last month of a peace accord between the Vietnam-installed Phnom

Penh government and the voluptuous, 27-year-old Chandaray, gesturing with daintily jewelled fingers.

Chosen as Cambodia's best film actress of 1991, Chandaray has appeared in more than 50 films in the past 12 months, and now commands a fee of 500,000 riel (\$500).

"I want to be a good actress and costume designs — actresses are required to wear the demure Cambodian sarong — must be submitted to the censors in advance for approval."

Cambodia's answer to Marilyn Monroe arrived on location, dressed to flout tradition — in an off-the-shoulder lace blouse, chiffon skirt and high stiletto heels.

"Audiences like me because I'm an arts school graduate and because I look

natural when I act," said the

Chandaray, gesturing with daintily jewelled fingers.

Chosen as Cambodia's best film actress of 1991, Chandaray has appeared in more than 50 films in the past 12 months, and now commands a fee of 500,000 riel (\$500).

"I want to be a good actress and costume designs — actresses are required to wear the demure Cambodian sarong — must be submitted to the censors in advance for approval."

Cambodia's answer to Marilyn Monroe arrived on location, keeping a film star-like distance from other actors in the garden for the shooting of *I Hate Women, But I Love You*.

"I only like to act sentimental roles," Chandaray said.

In the Yukon, drinking mothers damage their babies

By Jon Ferry
Reuter

WHITEHORSE, Yukon — Heavy drinking by mothers in Arctic communities is resulting in the birth of a large number of children who are brain damaged and who later often show criminal behaviour, Canadian health experts say.

They say at least one in 100 babies born in the Yukon territory, which has the highest level of alcohol consumption in Canada, has Foetal Alcohol Syndrome because the mother drank heavily during

pregnancy.

The problem is particularly severe among Eskimo and Indian children.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome produces brain deficiencies which result in learning disabilities and emotional problems such as uncontrollable rage and frustration, experts say.

Many victims of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome wind up in jail, branded as incorrigible criminals without remorse.

Judy Pakozdy, a hospital nursing director in Whitehorse, adopted an Eskimo boy with Foetal

Alcohol Syndrome 10 years ago, confident she could cure him.

But she soon came to realise he would always require constant supervision.

Now 11, he cannot understand why he is different from other children. "He throws two-by-fours (planks) at me. It's difficult to find babysitters. He used to chase the teenagers out of the house . . ." she said in an interview.

In November, the Yukon government announced a plan to help families of these brain-damaged youngsters. It calls for further spending on public education about alco-

hol abuse and better coordination among health and social service agencies.

Mrs. Pakozdy said she was glad the government had finally recognised there was a problem but the plan offered little real help to her and her son.

Whitehorse lawyer Rob Kilpatrick said the Canadian justice system has yet to realise the implications of the disorder.

"My suspicions are that a large number of repeat offenders are offending because of this alcohol-related birth defect. It's a mess," he said.

Mr. Kilpatrick said people with alcohol-related birth defects often do not understand the consequences of their actions.

In October, he said, a 15-year-old boy was sentenced to two years in a treatment centre after entering a Whitehorse home at random and climbing into bed with the couple living there.

"He carefully takes his clothes off, folds them perfectly, takes off his glasses, hops into bed and sexually assaults the lady," Mr. Kilpatrick said.

The youth showed no remorse — typical of criminals

with alcohol-related birth defects.

The Yukon, best known for the Klondike gold rush at the turn of the century, is mountainous territory sandwiched between Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories. It has some 30,000 inhabitants.

Long, dark winters and a rambunctious frontier spirit, idealised in the jaunty verse of poet Robert Service, fuel the territory's thirst for alcohol.

A recent government study found Yukon women are three times more likely to be

frequent heavy drinkers than women in the rest of Canada.

Each year, Yukon residents over the age of 15 drink an average of 462 bottles of beer, 16 bottles of spirits and 20 bottles of wine. Eighty per cent of the liquor is drunk by a mere 20 per cent of the population.

Former Yukon Education Minister Bea Firth says the territory's government does not understand the seriousness of the disorder.

"They (the government) really don't know what to do with this problem. It is a very unique disability. It destroys the development of the

brain," she said.

Mrs. Firth, a former nurse, said the sight of newborns in incubators with delirium tremens is pitiful.

"The babies have convulsions, it just makes your stomach sick," she said.

Ms. Firth said the Yukon government should follow the lead of Alaska and Sweden and appoint a Foetal Alcohol Syndrome co-ordinator to tackle the problem.

But Yukon Health Minister Joyce Hayden said existing agencies could cope if the public was educated better.

Scientists show brain's reorganisation after stroke may help therapy

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have shown for the first time a dramatic reorganisation in the human brain that apparently helps some stroke victims overcome paralysis.

A study of stroke patients who recovered from paralysis or weakness found that impaired portions of their brains had started sharing control over movement with

areas on the opposite side of the brain.

Scientists said further research may suggest ways to promote the recovery process through rehabilitation and perhaps drugs and medical devices.

The study shows "the human adult brain is capable of a lot of reorganisation following injury, and that is the way in which recovery of function is established," said study co-author Dr. Richard Frackowiak.

"People had speculated where in the brain these changes take place, and he's shown that. Nobody knew that before. People had

known that people recover, people have proposed mechanisms, but he's shown the anatomy of it."

Dr. Frackowiak's results are "fantastic," said Dr. Howard Fields, professor of neurology and physiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

"People had speculated where in the brain these changes take place, and he's shown that. Nobody knew that before. People had

area of the brain that's been damaged and can't function again, it gives you some sort of feeling of hope that some other related areas of the brain can help take over some of that function," he said.

Dr. Frackowiak said the reorganisation probably involves altered use of existing brain cell connections rather than establishment of new ones, but that the point is the focus of much speculation

and research.

The study was published earlier this year in the annals of neurology and presented

recently at a meeting of the American Neurological Association. Dr. Frackowiak also discussed it in a telephone interview.

Strokes damage areas of the brain by cutting off their blood supply. Depending on the function of the damaged area, this may lead to para-

lysis or weakness on one side of the body, speech impairment, loss of memory or other problems.

About 500,000 Americans suffer strokes each year. An estimated 70 per cent of stroke patients initially show paralysis on one side of the body.

When patients were asked to move fingers of the hand that had not been affected by the stroke, their brains showed a normal pattern of activation. That meant activity increased in the Sensorimotor Cortex on the side opposite that of the hand, and in the half of the cerebellum that lay on the same side as the hand.

But when the patients were asked to move fingers of the hand that had been affected by the stroke, a different pattern emerged.

The Sensorimotor Cortex and the cerebellum were activated on both sides of the brain, rather than just one side.

Apparently, this cooperative strategy let the brain bypass the stroke-induced brain damage, which had acted like a roadblock to commands coming out of the Sensorimotor Cortex on one side of the brain, Dr. Frackowiak said.

All six patients had a speci-

Animal studies give hope for avoiding fetal tissue controversy

By Malcolm Ritter

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — New studies give hope that Parkinson's disease and perhaps other diseases can be treated by transplanting tissue from animals, avoiding the controversial use of human fetal tissue, researchers say.

Baboons with symptoms

resembling Huntington's disease showed improvement after getting brain implants from rats, and rats with an experimental version of Parkinson's disease responded to implants of cow tissue, scientists report.

The success of transplantation between species suggests "you can avoid the use of

human fetal tissue," said Patrick Aebischer of Brown University in Providence, R.I.

The rats did not need any medication to prevent graft rejection because the cow tissue was hidden from their immune systems in plastic capsules. The baboons were given medication to prevent rejection.

Other research suggests that inserting new genes into a patient's own tissues also may eventually provide a way around using fetal tissue, said Dr. Ole Isacson of Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Aebischer and Dr. Isacson spoke in telephone interviews before describing their transplant work in New

Orleans at the recent annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

"These are very important discoveries," said John Sladek, director of the Neuroscience Institute at the Chicago Medical School.

The baboon work shows the transplanted cells will function, while the plastic-capsules approach would make it easier to implant laboratory-grown cells, which

would ultimately be medical preferable to fresh tissue, he said.

Human fetal tissue has been transplanted experimentally into people with Parkinson's disease, and scientists say it might help in treating several diseases. But the Bush administration bans federal funding of research using human fetal tissue, saying use of such tissue might encourage abortions.

The other key area involved is the cerebellum, at the base of the brain in the rear. The cerebellum helps coordinate movement.

Dr. Frackowiak and colleagues studied brain function in six recovered stroke patients with Positron emission tomography, which revealed where brain cells are activated and communicating with each other.

All six patients had a speci-

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CREATURE COMFORTS

By Neva Archer

ACROSS

1 Gab
2 Card, word for
3 "A" (crossword)
4 Certain student
5 "B" (crossword)
10 Major soda water
20 Daytime TV fare
21 Former
22 Headword
23 Piece of Minnie's wardrobe?
25 A rising
27 "C" (crossword)
28 Factor in manufacturing
30 "Turn" (Groton)
31 Cole of song
32 Cut with abandon
34 Beneath
36 "D" (crossword) a social blunder
40 Ships over water

41 — ghn
42 Corporate letters
45 Hus bands
46 Mr. Rogers'
47 "E" (crossword)
49 Ger, greeting
50 Astronomer
51 "F" (crossword)
54 What's new
55 Top of the line
56 Elec. units
57 Smile
58 Motion blur
59 Tennis player
60 So. coll.
63 What to wear
64 Climb, as in
65 Still around
66 — Entertain
67 "Eyes" (crossword)
68 "G" (crossword)
69 In a tizzy
70 Patty Duke —

71 — graham park?

(kindness is produced by kindness)
72 —
73 Km. of div.
75 Turnout's lid?
76 Columnist
78 Hindu fire god
80 Building support
82 World section
83 — pick out of you?
85 Major ends
86 Pro —
87 Holding hands
89 Vinegar-like
92 Thesaurus entry:
93 Shaggy
94 Slager
95 Savoir-faire

97 Worn at a wide-angle ball?
98 Low voice
99 Stock term
100 —
101 Begins
104 Bolting up the works
105 —
111 Wrap for a burrow?
114 Item for snoozing
115 — of you?
116 Give the eye
117 Large gut
118 Theatre spot
119 — chief
120 Push
121 Playground area
122 High spot
123 Cool as a cucumber

DOWN

1 Dito
2 Card, word for
3 "E" (crossword)
4 Instance
5 Everlasting
6 Memory of the South
7 "Unto us —"
8 "For" (crossword)
9 Life in —
10 Extra large wrap?
11 — (crossword)
12 Tobacco dryer
13 List ender
14 Poor grade
15 "G" (crossword)
16 Oriental water climbers
17 Weaving need
18 "H" (crossword)
19 Baby's blitzer?
20 Andis people
21 "I" (crossword)

24 Old instrument for
25 — (crossword)
26 Air, river
28 Bonny prefix
32 Blundings
34 — (crossword)
35 "And feel how awful — see Virtue in her womb?"
36 — (crossword)
38 Tag
39 News bits
40 Contract clause
41 Weather abbr.
42 Tourist request
43 The Barberian
44 Puff (make of haysew)?
45 Doctor's abbr.
46 — (crossword)
47 — (crossword)
48 — (crossword)
49 Doctor of a kind: abbr.
50 — (crossword)

52 Slow up, in music

53 Rough
55 US politician Mark
56 Step —!
57 — (crossword)
58 — (crossword)
59 — (crossword)
60 — (crossword)
61 — (crossword)
62 — (crossword)
63 — (crossword)
64 Need for some —
65 Cup handles
66 Source of pol

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Harold B. Coates

ACROSS

1 Boorish person
2 Clever
3 Country
4 Maiden name word
5 Church parts
6 Chicago airport
7 Cole and Turner
8 Picture blowup;
9 Sheep's coat
10 Fitzgerald
11 Dark, dead

22 Gang or poll end
23 German title
24 Glister
25 An Ossian
26 Bull's-eye for one
27 Earth
29 Bull's-eye for one
30 — (crossword)
32 Princess' wear
33 Tennis shot
34 Hazard

35 Planning

37 Bedpost
38 — (crossword)
39 Member of a — (crossword)
40 Original
41 Salid ingredient
42 — (crossword)
43 Acted the gourmand
44 Wood pencils
50 Kind of beam

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. QUCCHIN SLAUTYPA OPXBZAI HW

CAUTUSHEXC JHQCAHTI HX PQS

QAYNFCAUJN OZAZX'Y ILWWZABXC, WAFT

U JPHXYF INPZ IPXBAFTZ. —By Rita Salvato

2. FIGTSNGPNF LOFTY GS OSNOHNGIO OHT

CEVVWTY LB ACTS FCANF GS AEH AVAST VAST WORTL. —By Ed Hoddison

3. EFGHEJ KLFMNPQPFML KLOQRTEP ONFME XQXEEHGEKY WRGKMLJ HMLFRR QC ZOQC THOLWY XPL EFTK EFZH. —By Phillip Brennan

4. URERYNSQ NL T SUNMI QPF GEDNRZR NM CRATFLR QPF UTZT C GENIUS AUNDT. —By Barbara J. Rugg

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Speaker at the Düsseldorf congress constantly sounded the alarm by reminding their audience that amalgam consists of roughly 50 per cent mercury, a highly toxic metal.

Some members of the audience may not yet have recovered from the shock when the all-clear was sounded in that the mercury is kept firmly in place as metallic compound and does not consist of

one square centimetre of amalgam filling surface released between 10 and 20 microgrammes of mercury a day.

The filling was, in addition, simply worn down on the surface. The material aged and the compound of silver and mercury changed with time into a modification that released mercury.

One square centimetre of mercury per cubic metre of air inhaled.

Second, part of the mercury finds its way into the stomach and intestine. From there 10 per cent finds its way into the bloodstream. Third, mercury leaks into the tissue around the roots of the teeth and into the oral mucous membrane.

Another speaker at the congress referred to a daily 29 microgrammes in the case of 12 fillings. The federal government, replying to a parliamentary question tabled by the Greens, quoted

that these claims are unfounded.

Amalgam may not be a problem that can be solved overnight, but an urgent case can clearly be made for developing alternative fillings, and no-one is denying that costly gold fillings are far superior.

The Federal Association of German Dentists says cement, ceramic and synthetic fillings are not yet ready for use in molars. The public can justifiably demand the development of alternatives and an end to the health insurance schemes insistence on amalgam being used.

Israel fails to turn up for talks

(Continued from page 1)

particularly the Americans, will play in reaching a settlement. By press time last night, the Arab delegations were holding a meeting at the Grand Hotel, where the Palestinians and the Syrians are staying, to assess the situation in the aftermath of the Israeli decision not to show up and to coordinate strategy for the next round of talks, which could take place next week.

In his statement in the press at the State Department, Dr. Majali said the Arabs would not attend talks if they were called for Monday, Dec. 9, since the day commemorates the fifth anniversary of the start of the Palestinian intifada. It was still not known before the Grand Hotel meeting whether there was a coordinated position by the four Arab delegations on whether to attend meetings with the Israelis next week, and if so if all of them would boycott sessions only on Monday.

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokesperson, said the day was a special and important one but was non-committal on whether the Palestinians would actually attend.

According to Jordanian sources, the decision not to accept restart of the talks on that day goes beyond the commemorative value of the day, since it would also contain a message for the Israelis that they cannot impose their dictates on the Arab side, whether on the question of venue or timing or agenda of the negotiations.

In a press conference Mr. Netanyahu held here one hour after the bilateral negotiations were scheduled to begin he indicated that the issue of venue remains top priority in discussions between Arabs and Israel, if and when they are held.

The news of the peace efforts in the U.S. capital played second fiddle to other issues in the American media, the resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, the release in Beirut of American hostage Terri Anderson and the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith, which was broadcast live by some tele-

sion networks.

An editorial in the Washington Post, which did not carry any reports on the talks on its front page neither yesterday or the day before that played down any differences between the Americans and the Israelis over the U.S. invitation for the Washington talks and urged that the two sides not blow up those differences.

Israeli Spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu said in an earlier press conference that he was "reassured" that the U.S. wants the Arabs to directly negotiate with Israel rather than use the administration as an intermediary. But Ms. Tutwiler said she was not aware of any change in the administration's position as a co-sponsor in the process.

"It is our view that the co-sponsors and others have played a constructive role and we have said a number of times that had the parties been able to agree among themselves on a time and venue... we would be delighted," Ms. Tutwiler said. "But that is not the case, the facts do not back that up."

Israel has rejected the opening date determined by the co-sponsors and is still insisting that the talks move to the Middle East or a location close to the region.

Ms. Tutwiler also criticised Israel's approval of a new military settlement in the occupied West Bank.

"Our policy towards settlements has not changed." "We regard settlements as an obstacle to peace. For that reason... we are particularly disturbed at this development on the eve of the resumption of bilateral talks," Ms. Tutwiler said. "As President Bush said in Madrid, 'I call on all parties to avoid unilateral acts, be they words or deeds, that would invite retaliation or, worse yet, prejudice or even threaten the future of the consumer electronics industry.'

As the Madrid talks ended Nov. 4, the Israeli government had also inaugurated a new settlement for Soviet immigrants in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. That action was swiftly condemned by the U.S. as an obstruction to the peace process.

But any compromise at this point may be meaningless, industry analysts say, in the light of an announcement made earlier in November by Zenith Electronics

NATO worried by possible threat of independent Ukraine

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — For NATO, Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union could turn one of the West's worst nightmares into reality.

Alliance officials are worried that the republic could use its size and economic muscle to threaten fragile democracies in Eastern Europe, torpedo a key arms control agreement or even become a nuclear power — never mind what it could do to the already crumbling Soviet Union.

A NATO spokesman said on Monday the alliance had noted "with interest" the results of the Ukrainian vote for independence — preliminary results said around 85 per cent had voted "yes" — and

said the 16-nation Western alliance would continue consultations.

Unofficial reaction was much less sanguine.

"We are not optimistic, but there is nothing we can do," said one NATO official. "We have to respect the results of free elections with Moscow over the Soviet nuclear weapons that are still on its soil."

clear rival to Russia, the union's biggest republic.

Bordering on the Black Sea, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, the Ukraine has plans to build its own armed forces and wants joint control with Moscow over the Soviet nuclear weapons that are still on its soil.

"If you put all these factors together, you have a real recipe for disaster," said one diplomat at NATO headquarters.

Alliance leaders, at a summit in Rome last month, approved a new strategy for the post-cold war era that referred to this kind of instability as the greatest risk now facing the West.

With the Ukraine uppermost in their minds, they also issued a declaration warning the Soviet Union and its republics to respect democracy and all international obligations it they wanted Western support.

One of those obligations in-

cludes a landmark conventional arms treaty which provides for massive cuts in the cold war arsenal of tanks, big guns and other military hardware in an area stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty was signed last year by the 22 nations of NATO and the now-defunct Warsaw Pact, but has not yet been implemented. It is widely seen as the cornerstone of post-cold war disarmament.

If the Ukraine accepted the treaty as it was signed, it would do to accept limits on deployment and movement of forces within its own borders. NATO officials say they think such acceptance is unlikely.

The problem then is that the whole treaty could unravel and, with it, the basis of trust that has given us a new age of disarmament," said one official.

"We all hope things will turn out right. But given the mood of intense pessimism right now about developments in the Soviet Union, there are a lot of worried people here."

Europe's struggles over HDTV eclipsed by new U.S. technology

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

LONDON — As Europe wrangles over how to handle High Definition Television (HDTV) — hailed as the next-generation television — new digital technology championed by the United States is already threatening to usurp the future of the consumer electronics industry.

At stake, analysts and industrialists agree, is nothing less than the future of the consumer electronics industry.

Last month, the European Community's policy on HDTV underwent another in a long series of gyrations as commissioners and European Parliament members struggled to accommodate the conflicting demands of television manufacturers and broadcasters.

But any compromise at this point may be meaningless, industry analysts say, in the light of an announcement made earlier in November by Zenith Electronics

Corp and American Telephone and Telegraph Corp of the United States.

The two companies said they had received final approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to test a jointly developed all-digital television system which will deliver the same cinema-quality pictures promised by HDTV plus a wide range of other services — at a much lower cost.

The two firms said their technology would send interference-free signals to a significantly larger geographic area than is possible through either conventional broadcasts or any proposed HDTV system.

The Zenith-ATT system will be tested in January and is one of four digital technologies under consideration by the FCC, with a choice to be made in 1993.

A successful digital system would most likely sound the death-knell for European HDTV and the more advanced Japanese

system, both of which are satellite-delivered and based on a national standard.

A digital signal could be transmitted by both satellite and land-based transmitting towers and could be converted easily to work with any national system. That would get round the international patchwork of TV standards that now prevents one country's sets from receiving broadcasts from another.

This caused European broadcasters to complain to the European Parliament about efforts to force them to move to an interim satellite-delivered HDTV standard called MAC, developed by the Dutch group Philips electronics NV and Thomson SA of France.

"Many experts and industry observers believe that new technological developments, such as digital TV, may soon supersede MAC," the Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT) said in a statement.

"Considerable discussion is still required to ensure that Europe chooses the most appropriate HDTV standard, taking into account the needs of both terrestrial and satellite broadcasters."

The stakes involved are phenomenal.

By bringing into the home the clarity and big-screen quality of the cinema, HDTV has long promised to be the next major consumer electronics product — and the computer chips that drive the technology will have a wide range of other uses.

Market estimates for HDTV demand range as high as \$100 billion a year in 10 to 15 years. That is why manufacturers and politicians in Japan, Europe and the United States are all eager to develop a technology and standards that will determine the direction of HDTV worldwide.

Both Japan and Europe have concentrated on developing satellite-delivered HDTV systems based on analogue technology,

which uses electrical impulses to represent pieces of information.

Any TV set designed to work with the Japanese or European system will not work with any other, and the HDTV signal could not be received by existing TV sets.

A digital system would transmit information — video and sound — as a series of ones and zeros, the same language used by computers.

The digital code could be converted easily into other standards, allowing it to cut across all standard barriers.

But digital-based HDTV systems are not expected for another 10 years or so, while Japan demonstrated a working version of its analogue HDTV system five years ago and has started broadcasting with the system for eight hours a day.

European electronic companies argue that Europe must support the analogue MAC standard if it wants to catch up with Japan.

"We believe that the MAC standards will last well into the next century," said the European Association of Consumer Electronics Manufacturers.

The industry group argues that waiting for a digital system would leave the HDTV field wide open for Japanese domination.

Under the EC's latest com-

promise, to be considered by the community's telecommunications council on December 5, the interim MAC standard must be used for broadcasts in a wide-screen HDTV format.

Other programming could con-

tinute to use the existing Pal or Secam standards but EC subsi-

ties would be offered as an incentive for switching to D2-MAC.

It also changed the period dur-

ing which the requirement would be in effect from 10 to five years, recognising that digital technolo-

gy might supersede the MAC standard in 10 years.

Butchering a language!

By Ramadan Abdul Kader

If you happen to know Arabic and are fond of old Egyptian films, you will be really struck by the elevated language uttered by their actors. Many youngsters today feel confused by the well-articulated lines spoken by the Egyptian performers in the productions of the forties and fifties.

The trouble actually lies not with the films but with the youngsters who find the language incomprehensible. Today's language of the media and the movies have ominously degenerated into decadence and vulgarity.

Worse, Arabic language teachers know just a smattering of the syntax of this language. They are mainly non-specialists. With schools facing an acute shortage in instructors of the Arabic language, the Education Ministry has recently shifted to recruiting teachers who are graduates of faculties which have

nothing to do with this language. Arabic is Egypt's first language and it has been held in reverence over the past 16 centuries for being the language in which the Koran, the Muslims' holy book, was revealed. As the local labour market is steadily shrinking, while Egyptian universities are annually churning out thousands of graduates, many youths unwillingly take the job of Arabic teacher. But there is an Arabic saying which goes: "He who has nothing cannot give anything," and this saying surely applies to the case of the "fake" Arabic language instructors.

In the bygone days the theatre and movies were seen as good media for polishing one's Arabic. Many members of the family used to go to the "Ramses Theatre" for instance, to enjoy Youssef Wahbi's eloquence in his mostly Egyptian plays. In the same vein, the late actor Zaki Rostom used to rivet the attention of the

audience on him with his classical articulation of language in his movies. No wonder, today's parents feels sorry for the inability of their children to construct a correct Arabic sentence. They know quite well that unlike their unlucky children they were taught Arabic by competent teachers who approached this rich and evocative language tenderly and did not wane in their encouragement of pupils to read the Arabic classics and ones in translation.

The picture today is quite discouraging. Most theatrical and movie productions find their appeal in packing in the greatest possible number of blue jokes and racy language. The dialogue in most cases is from the gutter. Worse still, the Arabic teacher has become a butt of ridicule in today's dramas. He is depicted in a manner which only triggers laughter. He is shown in shabby clothes and with a revolting appearance. As time has passed, this picture has taken root in school children's minds, the rising generation has come to dislike the Arabic language and even to look down upon whoever tries to speak it. This reversal has given rise to gibberish terms which have sneaked into the Egyptian vernacular. They have found permanent slots and are being taken up in today's soap operas, movies and plays.

It is not also unnoticeable to find a TV announcer unable to match an Arabic-speaking guest.

Fearing the guest will upset him, the announcer babbles and hurts views which pale in glamour and articulation to those of his guest! May one hope that the bad days, on which the Arabic language is failing, will prompt the revival of the "Kutab"? Every village and district us-

ed to have "Kutab" whose main assignment was to teach children verses from the Koran and fundamentals of arithmetics. Many of Egypt's thinkers and illustrious writers owe a debt to this "Kutab." With its extinction, the Arabic language has proved

to be the main loser. TV movies and theatres are evident manifestations. They have consequently taken their toll on the values of the rising generation. Many of Egypt's thinkers and illustrious writers owe a debt to this "Kutab." With its extinction, the Arabic language has proved

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<p

Sports

Chang knocked out in 1st round of EC tennis tournament

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — American Michael Chang suffered a 6-4 2-6 6-4 defeat by Peruvian Jaime Yzaga in the first round of the injury-hit European Community Tennis Championships Tuesday.

In other first round action, Swede Jonas Svensson, called up to replace injured Yugoslav title holder Goran Ivanisevic, outplayed Spaniard Emilio Sanchez 6-2 6-4.

Top seed Stefan Edberg earlier withdrew with knee and arm problems and is also doubtful for next week's Grand Slam Cup.

World number one Edberg, troubled by a serious case of tendinitis since October, resumed training only four days ago after a three-week absence from the court.

The Swede, who had a first-round bye and was due to play American Aaron Krickstein Tuesday, will be replaced by American Patrick McEnroe, who

lost in the qualifiers.

Organisers confirmed French Davis Cup hero Guy Forget would take part in the event after rumours circulated that he was about to pull out.

Chang blamed his defeat on taking too much time off after winning a tournament in Birmingham, England, in early November.

"I came here a bit sluggish," he said.

"I made a little too many errors. I was too patient. I should have been a little more aggressive, mix it up a little more," Chang said.

Swede Svensson found himself 4-1 down in the final set against Sanchez — who started a one-year military service in October — but fought back to secure a second round match with American Pete Sampras.

"I should have served a bit better," said clay-court specialist Sanchez, who insisted it was his best match ever on hard court.

Frenchman Henri Leconte, fresh from his Davis Cup heroics, continued his winning ways, bearing friend and training partner Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-1 6-4.

"He's a dangerous player. I could not let him get into his stride," Leconte said of the towering Rosset who possesses a booming serve.

Leconte indicated that — unlike team mate Guy Forget — he had been spared most of the media fanfare after France's shock Davis Cup win over the United States.

"There are not that many journalists who have my phone number in Geneva," he said.

Once number five in the world, Leconte has nose-dived in the rankings after health problems. But he said he would try hard to reach the top 20 next year, and "maybe the top 10."



Michael Chang

FIFA draws back from World Cup revolution

NEW YORK (R) — Plans for sweeping changes to soccer's World Cup after widespread criticism of the 1990 tournament in Italy have been virtually abandoned, a leading official said.

International Football Federation (FIFA) General Secretary Sepp Blatter told Reuters in an interview it was unlikely there would be major changes in the rules of the game or in the often-debated format of the 24-team finals.

Suggestions for making the game more attractive and less defensive, including enlarging the goal and finding an alternative to the controversial penalty shoot-

But Mr. Blatter said FIFA real-

ised there was no point tampering with the rules of the sport. "We need a better application of the laws of the game, that's all," he said.

"The laws are practically perfect, though perfection doesn't exist, of course. What we have to do is help referees to be better trained and in better physical shape."

"It is they who can stop destructive play and protect creative players."

After the dull finals in Italy, FIFA set up a working party, including noted soccer figures such as French national team boss Michel Platini and German striker Rudi Voeller, to look at ways of increasing the sport's appeal.

Mr. Blatter said it would report next year with its only main recommendations on the laws expected to be a ban on back passes to the goalkeeper and the outlawing of tackles from behind. Both changes could be introduced next year.

He said goalkeepers would be treated as field players and not be allowed to pick up the ball after a back pass, preventing them from time-wasting.

"FIFA studies have shown that goalkeepers and referees are the game's biggest time-wasters," he said.

He said FIFA had found older and less fit referees allowed time to be lost to give themselves a better chance to catch their breath.

FIFA wanted professional referees and would bring down the maximum age limit from 47 to 45 for the U.S. finals and then to 42 at a future date.

For the final tournament, FIFA had found no better alternative to penalty shootouts to decide drawn matches, he said.

Proposals that the final should be replayed if drawn had also been discarded.

That would involve extending the month-long competition and would produce no guarantee that a second match would not also result at a future date.

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He said the 24-team format with 16 teams going through from group matches to a second round knockout was the best available.

In Sunday's draw, Europe will have its allocation of places reduced by one to 12 to allow a third African country an automatic place.

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Helmick resigns from IOC

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Robert Helmick of the U.S. resigned Wednesday from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over disclosures of unethical conduct, Olympic sources said.

"I hear he done the right thing," one source said.

The sources said Mr. Helmick, a member of the Executive Board, had resigned from the IOC in a letter to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Mr. Helmick submitted his letter to Mr. Samaranch just hours before the IOC executive board met to decide whether he should be ousted.

The 54-year-old Iowa lawyer resigned as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) in September after disclosures that he was paid some \$270,000 in legal and consulting fees by organisations linked to the Olympic Movement.

Mr. Helmick told Samaranch: "After much thought and reflection I have determined that I desire to take the initiative to resign my position as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

I am taking this action because I believe it is the decent thing to do and because it serves the best interest of the IOC and the United States Olympic Movement by returning the focus to the programme for athletes."

Mr. Helmick had come under heavy pressure over the past two days to resign but was believed not to have taken the decision until the early hours of Wednesday.

The Executive Board had been scheduled to hear the report of an IOC investigation into Mr. Helmick's business dealings by a three-man commission comprising

ing Keba Mbaye, a former judge at the International Court of Justice, and two Swiss lawyers, Marc Holder and Francois Carrard, the IOC director general.

IOC sources said the three men had tried to persuade Mr. Helmick to resign during a series of meetings over the past 48 hours.

Mr. Helmick, who joined the IOC in 1985 and became an executive board member in 1989, told Mr. Samaranch:

Peterborough eliminates Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Liverpool suffered the indignity of being knocked out of the Football League Cup by third division Peterborough Tuesday.

A blunder by Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar allowed winger Gary Kimble to score the decisive goal in Peterborough's stunning 1-0 fourth round home victory, putting them in the quarterfinals for the first time in 26 years.

Liverpool's first ever defeat in the competition by a third or fourth division club hanged on Grobbelaar's 19th minute error. He raced way out of goal for a cross by Noel Luke but only managed to push the ball straight to Kimble, who drove it into an empty net.

Peterborough, already the conquerors of first division Wimbledon and division two Newcastle in previous rounds, could have won by a bigger margin with better finishing.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 5, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

what you can do in order to gain the good will of your own contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to find the many reasons why any partnerships have not been working as you would like but you have to make a real effort.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your enjoyment of the projects you do opens many new doors so you will have plenty of tasks of the kind that you like to do in the next days.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever brings you joy and happiness in your social relations with those you like is excellent now so discuss with them what you like to do.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find the many behind the scenes data you need so be sure to investigate the various sources that can release these essential details.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some interesting condition at your home that you don't know just how to handle but think it over for although a challenge is also an opportunity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to show you are willing to go along with a plan of your allies that means you have to do some dull and drab project but that is beneficial.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she has every sort of ability along practical lines and should be given business and financial training from early age.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There are a number of strange but fascinating new interests that are now available to you but must be in the attitude of acceptance if they are to benefit you.

LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22)

Getting into every single item of any obligation is good for you are able to get a clear picture of

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays, obstacles and limitations in your path of practical accomplishment moves out of your way today as the Moon conjuncts Mercury but there isn't any other strong aspect to help you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out and shop for those articles and appliances that can fill your larder and make your tasks easier to do and keep appointments with interesting personalities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you think, add to your financial security and bring you more of this world's goods is fine so put on your practical thinking cap.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you are the one who can save others so think out the argument you wish to use to bring them to the line of reasoning, call and see them and give it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a restless urge to get at all of those private matters you need to look into so you can real understanding where you stand.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you like of a social nature should be excellent for you now so get out with the groups or the persons you like and have a pleasant time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your interest in the lighter side of life should wait the results of a conference you can now have with a very important bigwig who has the answers you need.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

This is your time to make certain you make some new contacts with very interesting and up and coming persons who have much information you can use.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you now have in mind is for bringing into effect the various and sundry credit matters that can place you on a better footing.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are a number of clever persons who have it in their power to cement some ties with you that are very much to the benefit of everyone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A great day for you to use all that angle-working quality that is so much a part of your nature and character and you can certainly produce fine results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you find that you are the one who does have the chance to thoroughly enjoy yourself at some entertainment or amusement that you like.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

You need to look at what is happening beneath your own roof if you are to get the answers that can be most helpful to you and bring you more comfort at home.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she has every sort of chance to really make it in a big way or to become a drifter that never does anything for themselves or anyone else. A great deal depends on what transpires in early formative years when it is of utmost importance that this progeny finishes the projects that they start.

PICTURE THIS: Easier problem,

but it was fairly obvious that West's lead was from a three-card fragment — South would hardly have launched into Blackwood holding three losing spades. That left declarer with a singleton, but was it a low card or the jack? After much soul-searching, East decided it would be undignified, and probably fatal, to allow declarer to win the trick with a singleton jack, so the defender elected to rise with the ace.

Declarer went up with the ace on

the club return and drew trumps,

discarding a club from dummy.

When the jack of spades later dropped, 12 tricks were there.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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MODERN LEADS CAN POSE PROBLEMS

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ K Q 10 6

♥ Q K 5

♦ A K J 3

♣ Q 2

WEST

♦ J 5 3

♥ 8 7 3 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ K J 9

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

EAST

♦ A 9 7 4 3

♥ 6 4

♦ 9 7

♣ 8 7 5 3

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Army coup possible in Soviet Union — St. Petersburg mayor

PARIS (R) — A military coup in the Soviet Union is now a real possibility and this time it will succeed, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak said in an interview published Wednesday.

"For me a military coup cannot be ruled out. And this time, if it happens, it will receive the support of the people," Mr. Sobchak told the Paris daily *Le Figaro*.

The outspoken mayor said last August's coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev failed because it was masterminded by unpopular Communists.

"But a military dictatorship whose declared goal is simply to restore order has a chance of success," he said.

Mr. Sobchak predicted that the crumbling Soviet empire could sink into deeper chaos if its leaders find no way to order relations among the independent-minded republics.

"Such chaos, in turn, will create the need (for the military) to put things in order," he added.

Mr. Sobchak's interview was published a day after Mr. Gorbachev, his political future thrown into question by a massive Ukrainian vote of independence, said the Soviet Union could collapse into war if republics did not unite in a confederation.

In an interview with the Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, Mr. Gorbachev also spoke of the possibility of another military coup, like that which removed him from office for three days in August.

Mr. Sobchak said a Yugoslav-type conflict in the Soviet Union could be catastrophic because of the presence of nuclear weapons in four republics — Byelorussia, Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine.

The powerful Russian Federation and the Ukraine, both harbouring nuclear arsenals, could clash over territory, Mr. Sobchak said.

S. Korea's ruling party split over Roh's successor

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's faction-ridden ruling party is expected to win next year's presidential election if its leaders are united and patch up a row threatening to tear the party apart, a senior party official said Wednesday.

Kim Yoon-Whan, secretary general of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said his party leaders were split over when and how the next presidential candidate should be decided.

President Roh Tae-Woo, who is due to step down in February 1993 after a five-year term in office, has ordered a suspension of the debate until the end of this year.

Mr. Kim said leaders of the DLP, formed last year after Pres-

ident Roh's Democratic Justice Party and two opposition groups merged, are expected to begin serious negotiations on the nomination issue in January.

"Regardless of who becomes our presidential candidate, he will be able to beat opposition candidates if he is endorsed by other factions," Mr. Kim said.

"I suppose factional leaders are sharing the view that they must prevent the party from breaking into pieces," Mr. Kim told foreign reporters in Seoul.

Mr. Kim, a former newspaper editor and close Roh confidant, said if the leaders failed to heal deep divisions within their alliance, the DLP would not be trusted by the public.

pool their efforts within the union treaty, which took a year to prepare.

"Now, without delay we must sign the union treaty. And it must go into effect as soon as possible," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"My position is unequivocal. I am for a new union of sovereign states... we can no longer delay. Losing time could be catastrophic. Political manoeuvring is unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the United States told its NATO allies Tuesday that breakaway Soviet republics like the Ukraine must honour international commitments if they wanted diplomatic recognition from the West.

Ambassadors and senior officials from the 16 nations of the Western alliance discussed Sunday's independence vote in the Ukraine and the break-up of NATO's former war enemy at a special meeting in Brussels.

Mr. Gorbachev, facing political eclipse, has issued a desperate plea for the remaining Soviet republics to sign a political treaty with the Kremlin or face poverty and collapse.

Mr. Gorbachev, looking weary and nervous, appeared on television Tuesday two days after the Ukraine voted nine to one to endorse independence from Moscow, virtually torpedoing his plan for a union of sovereign states.

But he failed to make a single direct reference to the republic — the second largest in the Soviet Union and a major industrial and farm base.

Mr. Gorbachev, his hands folded nervously, told viewers those promoting secession had deceived the people.

"Disintegration will bring misfortune to millions of our citizens," he said. "There is now speculation that separation will bring benefits, but this will be short-lived."

He said republics, including President Boris Yeltsin's vast Russian Federation, could not overcome the country's economic crisis on their own and had to

encouraging assurances that all international obligations would be met.

"The problem we discussed was how we could help the Soviet Union and the republics, while at the same time making sure that it lives up to all its commitments," said another NATO source.

Hungary will establish diplomatic links with the Ukraine and Russia with immediate effect, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday in Budapest.

"The Foreign Ministry instructed its representative in Moscow and Kiev to sign a protocol on establishing diplomatic links today," spokesman Janos Herman said.

Mr. Herman said the Hungarian government had regarded the Russian Federation and the Ukraine — the Soviet Union's two largest republics — as sovereign states for some time.

Hungary has an embassy in Moscow taking care of its links with the Soviet Union and a consulate in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

Mr. Herman said Hungary had followed Poland and Canada in recognising Ukraine. Russia was also recognised by its traditional ally Bulgaria.

"What made Hungary special was that it recognised the two republics simultaneously," Mr. Herman said.

In Bucharest, the Romanian Foreign Ministry also said it was ready to recognise the independence of Ukraine and establish diplomatic relations.

"Romania will recognise the independence of the Ukraine as it did with other (Soviet) republics and we are looking forward to establishing diplomatic relations as soon as possible," ministry spokesman Traian Chebeleu said.

In a statement released in Rome, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church urged the international community to recognise an independent Ukraine.

China attacks American human rights record

PEKING (R) — The People's Daily newspaper Wednesday told the United States to examine its record on crime and homelessness before lecturing China on human rights.

In a mocking attack, China's Communist Party mouthpiece concluded that millions of Americans were not guaranteed the most fundamental human right — the right to life.

A signed commentary headlined "why are the 'guardians of human rights' afraid to talk about the right to life?" is the latest twist in the strategy of China's hardline leaders of engaging the West in dialogue on human rights.

The men who ordered guns and tanks to open fire on student demonstrators in Peking in June,

1989, appear to have decided that attack is the best form of defence.

And they believe they have found the weak point in Washington's armour, what the commentary called the "fear and want" on the streets of America that contrasts with the wealth security enjoyed by a minority.

Out of every 100,000 Americans last year, eight were murdered (compared with two in China), 70 were raped (compared with four), more than 300 were injured (against seven), more than 200 robbed (against seven) and more than 5,000 were victims of theft (against 160).

The commentary said an average of 2.5 million Americans slept rough on the streets. The figure was 150,000 in China.

A spokesman said fighting broke out Tuesday evening between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and of Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party at Bruntville black township in Natal province.

Mandela calls for continued sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nelson Mandela urged the United Nations Tuesday to keep up economic sanctions against South Africa until apartheid is wiped out and pledged a future state free of prejudice.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly and at a wide-ranging news conference afterwards, the African National Congress (ANC) president said sanctions should be lifted gradually and in phases.

"Precisely because we have not yet reached the goal of liberation towards which all of us have striven, we believe that there is need for continued international pressure to encourage peaceful movement forward towards ending the system of apartheid," he said.

Mr. Mandela's three phases are similar to those adopted by the Commonwealth but not agreed to by Britain or several other Western nations.

In his week-long tour through the United States, he intends to undertake the complicated task of convincing foundations and business leaders to invest in a future South Africa when the time is ripe.

The first phase, which Mr. Mandela defined as lifting "people to people" sanctions had already been done by allowing air flights, visas, cultural contacts when obstacles to negotiations had been removed.

The second phase, after an interim government was established, would lift financial sanctions, trade credits and loans and a third phase, following the election of a new government based on a democratic constitution, would remove sanctions on oil and arms.

Mr. Mandela and his ANC on Dec. 20 will begin a convention with other anti-apartheid groups and the white-led South African government to discuss a new political system.

Mr. Mandela's speech before the 166-member body resembled in style and content that of a head of state and covered various world issues, from nuclear weapons to Cambodia to the Middle East.

During his news conference he also disclosed that he had received an invitation to visit Israel and was considering it.

Meanwhile, in South Africa 16 people were killed in fighting between rival black political movements, the worst outbreak of violence in South Africa's bitter factional war for nearly a month, police said Wednesday.

A spokesman said fighting broke out Tuesday evening between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and of Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party at Bruntville black township in Natal province.

Vance meets army, Serb leaders on Osijek plight

BELGRADE (R) — United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance held fresh talks Wednesday with Yugoslav army and Serbian leaders, apparently to raise the plight of the bombarded Croatian city of Osijek which he visited Tuesday.

Yugoslav officials said the former U.S. secretary of state, who on the fourth day of a peace mission, was meeting Federal Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic and U.N. aides said he would also see Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

He is trying to negotiate an agreement between Croatia, the rival Republic of Serbia and the Serbian-led federal army on the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces after five months of fighting which has killed thousands of people.

Mr. Vance will return to Belgrade Thursday before leaving for New York to report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Despite the obstacles to a ceasefire, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said in Brussels that the six Yugoslav republics would meet in the Hague next Monday as the European Community starts its own summit at Maastricht.

He gave no details. But diplomatic sources in the Hague said Lord Carrington, the EC's chief envoy in peace talks on Yugoslavia, would chair the meeting to review events.

Croatia and the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia are still waiting for recognition from other countries.

In Bonn, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised Slovenian President Milan Kucan that Germany would recognise his republic as an independent state by Christmas.

Togo's premier to change government after coup

LOME (R) — Togo's Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh was Wednesday expected to begin the task of setting up a new provisional government after he was seized by soldiers in a bloody coup against his transitional administration.

Sources close to Mr. Koffigoh said 17 people were killed and dozens wounded, most of them soldiers, when troops besieging his official residence stormed the building early Tuesday morning with shells falling on the city centre and suburbs.

Mr. Koffigoh, looking exhausted and broken, appeared early in the evening on national television to say he had surrendered to stop the bloodshed and avert a possible civil war.

He said the coup leaders took him to see military President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who was stripped of most of his powers in August by a national conference which installed Mr. Koffigoh as Togo's de facto leader.

Medical sources said the death toll could be much higher as the army was transporting many casualties to a base in central Lome, where they could not be counted, rather than directly to the hospital.

Scared residents clutching bundles of possessions flooded into neighbouring Ghana through gaps in the barbed-wire frontier not far from the centre of the seised capital.

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There was little discussion of so-called review clauses — another look at their links in a few years' time.

These probable revisions have become a key point since Germany, the staunchest backer of the largely impotent European Parliament, said last week it might go along with EMU as long as the other states agreed to pledge to give the assembly greater powers at some stage in the future.

Meanwhile, European Community interior and justice ministers pledged Tuesday to unify immigration policies to stem the flood of migrants seeking to enter the EC and to counter rising racism.

"Immigration is one of the major problems of the European democracies in this decade," Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin told a news conference.

"We have to be prepared for further movements within Europe, from East to West, and from other parts of the world, especially northern Africa."

He said tensions caused by immigration, already evident in several EC countries, showed how the issue could become a breeding ground for extremist groups from both left and right.

During two days of talks the ministers adopted a report detailing a series of measures to tackle the immigration problem. It will be presented to EC leaders at the Maastricht summit.

But the foreign ministers were unable to agree on plans to give the EC a greater say in social affairs — a proposal Britain says could wreck a decade of efforts to curb its trade unions — or on demands by poorer states, led by Spain, for more money from their rich partners.

In order to stop "shopping around" by asylum-seekers, the ministers said requests for refugee status could be considered clearly unfounded if the migrant had shortly beforehand applied for asylum in another EC country.

About 6,000 people in India have so far tested positive for the virus which causes AIDS, the agency said.

Column 8

Queen Elizabeth awards U.N. chief a knighthood

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Queen Elizabeth awarded U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar an honorary knighthood in one of Britain's highest orders of chivalry, Britain's mission to the United Nations has announced.

He is trying to negotiate an agreement between Croatia, the rival Republic of Serbia and the Serbian-led federal army on the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces after five months of fighting which has killed thousands of people.

Mr. Vance will return to Belgrade Thursday before leaving for New York to report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

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SINGAPORE (R) — An international telecommunications conference which opened in Singapore hit a snag — a communications glitch.

Organisers of the pan-Asian telecommunications summit were unable to show a filmed speech transmitted from Switzerland because the quality was too poor. And a faxed transcript of the address was illegible in Paris, said Theodor Irmer, conference chairman. The speech was by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world trade body.

Away team suffers double defeat in jail soccer match

LONDON (R) — Footballers who played a prisoners' team at a British jail lost more than the match when inmates broke into their dressing room and stole money and watches. "What a terrible day. We get staffed 4-0 and then find that the dressing rooms have been raided," Frank Roberts, of amateur soccer club Wolverhampton Windows, said of the double defeat. The Daily Star newspaper said officials at the jail in Wolverhampton, central England, saw slim hopes of catching the culprits.

Winter woollies trap bungling midsummer thieves

MIDDLESBROUGH, England (R) — Two bungling bandits tried to rob a home loans bank in midsummer wearing winter woollies, a court was told. They couldn't have been more conspicuous if they had been riding on the back of a camel," a witness who noticed the pair and called police to the raid in Middlesbrough, northeast England. "It was sweltering hot... yet there they were, looking as if they were about to go skiing." Teenagers Lee Tranter and Mazarfar Majid were convicted of conspiracy to rob a building society branch in the town last June. Tranter was ordered to serve 150 hours of community service and Majid 120.

India drops plan to identify AIDS carriers

NEW DELHI (R) — India has dropped a plan to make it mandatory for AIDS victims to disclose their identities, the Press Trust of India news agency said. The idea was abandoned after charges that it violated human rights and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, the news agency quoted senior Health Ministry